

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

Volume 21 Number 12
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: November 10, 2020
Approved: November 12, 2020

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Shelly Fyant, Chairwoman (77th Annual National Congress of American Indians (virtual) Convention).

OTHERS PRESENT: Jennifer Trahan, Council Office Manager; James Steele, Sr., Sergeant at Arms; Abby Dupuis, Recording Secretary; and Donna Durglo, Recording Secretary.

The meeting was called to **order** at 9:03 a.m. Quorum established.

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

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

MOTION by Bing Matt to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for November 5, 2020, with corrections. Seconded by Len TwoTeeth. Carried, 8 for; 1 abstention (Ellie Bundy McLeod – was absent during the afternoon session).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

MOTION by Charmel Gillin to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

Shannon Burke, Tribal Member, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss a personal matter. **Mark Couture** and **Roberta Decker**, Tribal Lands Department; and **Jami Pluff**, Policy Analyst; were present for discussion.

Mark Couture, Tribal Lands Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session**. **Jami Pluff**, Policy Analyst, was present for discussion.

Shiree Dupuis Ryan, Tribal Member, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss a personal matter. **Johnathan Owens** and **Jessi Cahoon**, Tribal Health Department; and **Jami Pluff**, Policy Analyst; were present for discussion.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Jean Matt, **Rick Eneas** and **Dale Nelson**, Unified Command Team, gave an update. **Jean Matt** reported there are a total of 856 COVID-19 cases on the reservation and 188 active cases. The active numbers are constantly evolving in the sense that the numbers are having a hard time keeping up from all the reporting agencies that get reported to the state. There are 11 hospitalizations and a total of 7 deaths in the state. The team is working on strategies for housing options and are in discussions with the S&K Gaming Board about potential options. The PSA with the Public Health and Tribal Health nurses has not been completed yet, but they will record it as time allows. Dale is working with Audrey from the state office to help get some orders in. The state predicts orders will become complicated over the holiday time, and over the next 90 days COVID-19 cases will increase throughout the state. The state is seeing cases from Halloween activities and are preparing for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. There are two trials on the last phase of testing for a vaccine. They are looking to make it available to the emergency responders first. It is unknown when it will be available in Montana. They are talking about a rollout in April, but there is no clarity on when that will occur. Public Health hired some Emergency Hires to help with contact tracing. The Tribal Health Department is working through the process to hire more contact tracers, as well. Jean Matt, Martin Charlo and Mark Clary have been discussing the possibility of Tribal Council having a meeting with the Lake County Commissioners next Tuesday if council is available. **Martin Charlo** commented that due to the change in the political landscape for the state, he thinks it is important for us to sit down with the Lake County Commissioners to see where they stand on this and get a recommitment that we will all protect our community members. When the UCC first came about it was really strong, and part of that was us having a common goal; that is something we need to reiterate with them and get a recommitment with them, if possible. Politics should not play into this; COVID affects us all. We could look at other options if council does not want to meet with the commissioners on a council meeting day. We need to lay out our concerns and have a government-to-government meeting with them. **Anita Matt** scheduled the meeting for Tuesday, November 17, at 2:30 p.m. **Jean Matt** will follow up with the Lake County Commissioners. **Len TwoTeeth** asked how many tribal members we have lost. Jean said we had 7 total deaths; he will need to find out from Chelsea the total number of tribal members. **Jean Matt** will follow up and report back. **Dale Nelson** informed council that he is in communications with the Region 8 Tribal Liaison, who has some free disposable garments. He is in

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conversations with her so he can get an order of those garments as much as he can and store them for use when necessary. Jean worked with John Neiss and they were able to work with the Kwataqnuq Resort to deliver some beds and furniture to the CAO building. The UCC was in discussions with FRCA to provide the essential services people need for basic necessities. That is something he thinks FRCA could provide. Martin thanked S&K Gaming for their donations of beds, bedding, furniture, and other items; the Tribal Maintenance staff; and the UCC for helping with this issue. Jean stated that now that Mission Valley Power has the white house contract, that should be available by this weekend. The white house has three rooms, but Jean does not know the size of the rooms. **Martin Charlo** advised that he would be working closely with Public Health and Tribal Health on the number of people being housed there. He does not want to create a contagious zone there, so he will need to work with Tribal Health on this. **Rick Eneas** thinks it depends upon the situation for the white house. The house has three rooms, but the bathroom and kitchen are shared areas. It will be something for the health folks to evaluate if there is an opportunity for multiple family units at the CAO. It has the capacity for two or three individuals. **Anita Matt** questioned who would be sanitizing and cleaning them to make sure they are clean once the people leave. Jean said that is something he is in discussions with John Neiss about.

Johnathan Owens and **Jamie Cahoon**, Tribal Health Department, requested approval to transfer Mary Driscoll from a temporary employment agreement to 69-C FTE status to fill the Community Health Representative position. Upon interviewing Mary, it was determined that Mary qualified for this position.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to approve the transfer of Mary Driscoll from a temporary employment agreement to 69-C FTE status to fill the Community Health Representative position. Seconded by Charmel Gillin. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

Sandra Boham, Salish Kootenai College, requested the chairwoman's signature on the Montana Department of Transportation amendment for an additional \$20,000 to Highway Construction Trades. The Tribal Council approved the original agreement with MDT in June. SKC was notified they need to get this amendment processed or MDT will re-budget the money. Most of the funding will be used for fuel and vehicle maintenance. The contract amendment was reviewed by Contracts & Grants.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to authorize the chairwoman to sign the new funding allocation. Seconded by Fred Matt. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

Tony Incashola, Jr. and **Steve McDonald**, Tribal Forestry, requested acceptance of the high bid from BMOR Ventures for the Hot Springs 243103

Logging Unit Timber Sale.

MOTION by Len TwoTeeth to accept the high bid from BMOR Ventures for the Hot Springs 243103 Logging Unit Timber Sale. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

Tony Incashola, Jr. and **Steve McDonald**, Tribal Forestry, requested acceptance of the high bid from Dupuis Logging for the Eva Paul Winter Logging Unit Timber Sale.

MOTION by Bing Matt to accept the high bid from Dupuis Logging for the Eva Paul Winter Logging Unit Timber Sale. Seconded by Ellie Bundy McLeod. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

Tony Incashola, Jr. and **Steve McDonald**, Tribal Forestry, requested acceptance of the high bid from Dupuis Logging for the Sunny Side Up Logging Unit Timber Sale.

MOTION by Len TwoTeeth to accept the high bid from Dupuis Logging for the Sunny Side Up Logging Unit Timber Sale. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

Tony Incashola, Jr., Tribal Forestry, informed council that Forestry had three small sales and only one bid was received. Forestry is going to proceed with the Sunny Side larger sale before advertising the two remaining small sales, which will prep the roads for the smaller permittees. **Len TwoTeeth** would like the Tribal Forestry Department to coordinate these with the Game Wardens since there has been non-tribal members in that area. Tony informed council no bids were received for the Moss Ranch salvage sale advertisement. The appraisal will be re-evaluated, and they will look at the road and maybe lower the size to offer it to small loggers. It will be advertised as a permit sale.

Len TwoTeeth noticed with the Elders program that there are less and less woodcutters. It will become an issue this winter. He would like Forestry to periodically identify to the membership the areas that are accessible for them to get firewood. **Tony Incashola, Jr.** has let quite a few people know and discussed it with the Elders program. There are plenty of woodcutters, but they are selling the wood privately instead of going through those programs. Tony has been looking for a solution for this and will come in with a feasibility study regarding firewood for those specific programs. Len said the program pays \$185 a cord when many of them make \$200 per cord on the open market. He thinks we need to find the money to do that. Cutting firewood is a tough chore and they barely make anything after their expenses. He wants us to try to figure out where we can get the extra \$15 to pay the tribal member woodcutters to make it worth their while to go out and get the wood.

Tony Incashola, Jr. and **Steve McDonald**, Tribal Forestry, met with council in **executive session** to discuss a personnel matter. **Jami Pluff**, Policy Analyst, was present for discussion.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

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

Anisa Goforth, University of Montana, shared a manuscript entitled Incorporating the Indigenous Evaluation Framework for Culturally Responsive Community Engagement. The paper summarizes the last two years' collaboration with the Arlee community on a federally funded grant approved by the Tribal Council. She hopes to submit this manuscript to the Psychology in the Schools "Embedding Equity into School Mental Health Theory, Research and Practice."

Rhonda Swaney, **Ryan Rusche** and **Jordan Thompson**, Legal Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters. **Jami Pluff**, Policy Analyst, was present for discussion.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

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

Len TwoTeeth out of the room.

Donnie Wetzel, Jr., Tribal Liaison and TRRU Director for the Montana Office of Public Instruction, provided information on the new Tribal Relations and Resiliency Unit using a holistic approach under the Montana Office of Public Instruction and gathered feedback regarding guidance for effective tribal consultation. The unit was developed to build relationships and understandings within the OPI and Montana School Districts to incorporate a tribal voice, share resources, and build connections through consultation on matters affecting American Indian students for the benefit of our youth. The consultation guidelines are: OPI Policy Committee, tribal specific professional development and inclusion, restorative/relational support, consultation and Local Education Agency (LEA) support – guidelines, collaborations and bridger building with other units, student voice inclusion, resource mapping and sharing, budget and grant collaborations; impact aid and Johnson O'Malley support, including networking services for the benefit of our youth such as youth skill building, resiliency trainings, peer support, Medicaid reimbursement support and trainings, restorative and relational practice, suicide prevention, braiding of existing services; research projects, including strength in identity, youth supports, and wellness; and strength-based acknowledgement and positive media emphasis.

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The district consultation and relationship development included: Local Education Agency support and outreach; guidance document; on-call support; student support and youth-led initiatives; connecting district, community, and tribe; school board supports and trainings; and best practice trainings and guidance. A youth group was established, and the plan is to also establish an elder group. At the state level, they work on the tribal relations report; legislative presentations and support; tribal nation representation, voice importance and identification; partnerships across State departments in support of Tribal youth with direction; regional hub development for support-education and perspective; and Montana Advisory Council (MACIE) for Indian Education support. Some questions they had brought up with other school districts were: What would our modern-day schools include if our tribal ancestors had a say? What would they want the children to experience and understand about their identity? What would it look like and feel like when you walked in? As a tribal ancestor yourself, what would you want a school to include for your grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great great grandchildren? The Youth Voice and Leadership's purpose is to break down walls and misconceptions; share ideas and acknowledge our local strength and beauty; develop self-reliance among the students to learn how to write their own proposals and seek funding; and to build unity among our schools, staff and students to share placed-based knowledge in a traditional face-to-face "Indian Education For All" format. They provide wrap-around support services for youth in the schools.

Len TwoTeeth returned to the meeting.

Martin Charlo informed the Facebook audience that there were 1,101 new COVID-19 cases today. New cases are starting to pop up from the Halloween activities. He reminded everyone to stay home if possible, wash their hands, social distance, and wear a mask.

Len TwoTeeth requested that Rick Eneas provide an update on the tower project. Council has received no updates. He also wants to discuss and have a potential resolution to move forward on how we are addressing the remainder of the CARES Act funding. **Martin Charlo** did not think it would be fair to blindside Chuck Reese and IT by having them come in today; we need to give them a couple days to prepare for this. The second issue will be coming in later. **Council** agreed to hold off on it until Thursday.

Jody Perez, Robin Thorne, Katie Symons, Zoe LaBeau, Velda Shelby, and Janet Camel, Homeless Task Force, gave an update. **Katie Symons** met with Elements and requested they find a different side table that cost less, as directed by council, and the cost was reduced to \$500. They also found lounge seats under \$1,000. Those changes reduced the budget. **Janet Camel** informed council that she processed the purchase orders for the three manufactured homes and Accounting will cut the check so they can be FedExed today with the

purchase agreements. The Economic Development Office is working with the Salish Kootenai Housing Authority to get the contractors in place, getting the electricians lined up, and propane for the homes. Dick Anderson is dealing with some issues at the KHJCC site. **Carole Lankford** discussed an individual needing a home. Jody suggested that she apply for the Transitional Living Center or a low-rent unit. There are waiting lists for both, but she could at least get her name on the waiting lists. **Robin Thorne** gave an update on the discussions regarding the operations budget and a funding source for it is an outstanding issue. The Starlite Motel will have a budget shortfall for operating expenses. She had asked if Tribal Health had funding available for its operational revenues to support the operational costs of the project. Tribal Health determined they would not be able to participate by committing any funds. Tribal Health had an external auditor determine that Tribal Health could not pay expenses out of their operational revenues. **Rick Eneas**, Financial Management, joined the discussion. **Anita Matt** asked Rick to visit with Johnathan Owens about what their auditor said and what their response was. Rick commented that we may need to piecemeal it for certain components from multiple funding sources. Rick will follow up with the Tribal Health Department. **Robin Thorne** did not know who Tribal Health's auditor was that gave them that advice. **Anita Matt** requested that the unmet need budget be submitted to Rick Eneas. Rick would like to schedule a Budget Committee meeting to review this matter. He has not seen any responses to the request that was sent to the department heads. **Katie Symons** reported that the Tribal Defenders Office do not have enough funding in their budget to take this on, and they would need a longer-term agreement. **Anita Matt** suggested that it be reviewed by the Budget Committee.

Charmel Gillin presented for approval a resolution supporting the Native Nations Chaplaincy Alliance to provide charitable services on the Flathead Indian Reservation for the benefit of the people.

MOTION by Bing Matt to approve the resolution supporting the Native Nations Chaplaincy Alliance to provide charitable services on the Flathead Indian Reservation for the benefit of the people. Seconded by Len TwoTeeth. Carried, 9 for; 0 opposed; 0 not voting.

RESOLUTION 21-007

A RESOLUTION TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND SUPPORT THE NATIVE NATIONS CHAPLAINCY ALLIANCE TO PROVIDE CHARITABLE SERVICES ON THE FLATHEAD INDIAN RESERVATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLE

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

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council, as primary governing body of the Flathead Nation, is entrusted with the responsibility to 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 are among the highest priorities of the Tribes; and

WHEREAS, the Native Nations Chaplaincy Alliance is a registered Montana Non-Profit, in good standing, whose registered agent, Michael McElderry, is a CSKT tribal member, which engages and supports chaplains by training teams for community services, crisis intervention, and emergency response; and

WHEREAS, the above stated Alliance has certified local tribal members, members of other tribes, and others interested in serving the needs of the public on a volunteer basis; and

WHEREAS, the Native Nations Chaplaincy Alliance has provided introduction to the CSKT and requests affirmative recognition to encourage the chaplains' work to assist individuals in need on the Flathead Indian Reservation; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Tribal Council greatly appreciates the stated mission of the Native Nations Chaplaincy Alliance, and herewith acknowledges and supports its intended work.

Council met in **executive session**.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

Council **adjourned** at 2:53 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Thursday, November 12, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Ellie Bundy McLeod
Tribal Council Secretary