

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

Volume 24 Number 51  
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: May 9, 2024  
Approved: May 14, 2024

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mike Dolson, Chairman; Tom McDonald, Vice-Chairman; Martin Charlo, Secretary; James Steele, Jr., Treasurer; Carole Lankford; Danielle Matt; James “Bing” Matt; and Len TwoTeeth.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jennifer Finley (Personal Time Off); and Jim Malatare (Personal Time Off).

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jennifer Trahan, Council Support; Leniece Trahan, Sergeant at Arms; and Abby Dupuis, Recording Secretary.

The meeting was called to **order** at 9:02 a.m. Quorum established.

The meeting was opened with a **prayer** by Mike Kenmille.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for April 30, 2024 were presented for approval.

**MOTION** by Martin Charlo to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for April 30, 2024, with corrections. Seconded by Tom McDonald. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for May 2, 2024 were presented for approval.

**MOTION** by Martin Charlo to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for May 2, 2024, with corrections. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, 7 for; 1 abstention (Tom McDonald).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

**MOTION** by Tom McDonald to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

**Cecilia Shorty** proposed starting a Neighborhood Watch Program in the community of Dixon. The community concerns include littering, fire safety,

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emergency evacuation plan, and to better involve everyone in a good and healthy way to communicate in a remote area such as Dixon Agency. The startup cost is \$57.50 to post Neighborhood Watch Program signs and window decals. The SaferWatch website provides information on what the program entails. Cecilia has seven community members so far that are interested in the program. There are three levels of the program. The street level defense includes two signs to post awareness of the program, the home defense level includes signage and decals, and the participant level is engaging and willing to call the police or dispatch to report problems. **Tom McDonald** recommended supporting this program for any tribal communities that want to set up a Neighborhood Watch Program. Cecilia discussed safety concerns for pedestrians walking on the roadway and requested speed limit signs be posted in the Dixon Agency. **Chairman Dolson** advised there will be a speed evaluation conducted in Sanders County through Dixon and he will follow up. Cecilia discussed plant life and vegetation, which needs to be abundant. Cecilia is proud that the Tribes have received ownership of the Bison Range and she is concerned about the elk poaching that continues to occur. Cecilia suggested having an automatic sensor that will alert and use a drone so the situation could be addressed. **Council** mentioned poaching has continued to be of concern to the Tribes. The Tribes installed game cameras at the wildlife crossings and motion sensors around the fence. Antone Paul was hired to install game cameras on the Bison Range. Cecilia asked what the relations were when an animal or sacred being dies while guests and tourists are there. There should be no reason why a snake gets ran over since there is a low speed limit throughout the range. The Bison Range is such a sacred area and she would like the animals protected. **Tom McDonald** commented that the speed limit, dust abatement, and education of every visitor are critical factors. The Bison Range was not originally designed for visitors by the Fish & Wildlife Service since it was a refuge, so there needs to be a secondary entrance off Highway 93 so visitors must pass a checkpoint to enter the Bison Range. Cecilia did not understand why fishing access is allowed if it is a refuge. **Tom McDonald** explained it was set up as a buffalo reserve and that was the only species that was protected; all other animals were hunted and fished. The regulations are reviewed each year by the tribal council and those rules can be changed if there are any safety issues. Cecilia would like Big Medicine returned to the Tribes. **Chairman Dolson** advised the Tribes are working on a plan for that to happen. Cecilia talked about the amount of twine around communities which poses a health hazard and risk to the wildlife. **Tom McDonald** responded that some ranchers do not pick up their twine and then the birds pick it up. Cecilia was concerned about access through the sacred area and thought it would be better for the sacred wildlife that live in that area to not have those access points pass through the agency. **Danielle Matt** stated the pole yard is an undeveloped site so people will continue to use it. The best step would be to develop the site so it is monitored. She would like to install a ramp and garbage cans at that location. Cecilia asked what the regulations are for our sacred places and why nonmembers are allowed to have a permit to be there. She wanted to

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know if enrolled tribal members can ask people for verification and to show their permit. **Chairman Dolson** advised there is no rule preventing tribal members from asking individuals if they have a permit, but he would not advise doing that. **Tom McDonald** thought it would be a better approach to educate nonmembers and remind them that they need to have a tribal permit. Cecilia saw some blue oil in the water by the entrance to the Charlo dump. She asked if it was possible to add Pend d'Oreille in respect to our ancestors. **Chairman Dolson** advised Pend d'Oreille has been included on many things except for our corporate name, and he would support doing that. **Danielle Matt** has been working with James to see how they could get Pend d'Oreille added to the Tribal flag. Danielle asked if Cecilia was interested in serving as an election judge and requested that Jennifer Trahan provide her the necessary information.

**MOTION** by Tom McDonald to support the initiation of the Neighborhood Watch Program for Dixon Agency and any other tribal community that wants to participate in the program. Seconded by Carole Lankford. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

**Mike Kenmille**, Two Eagle River School, requested clarification on the 50th Anniversary Pow Wow request for funding. Rodney Bird came to council to seek a donation and was told to reach out to the other tribal entities for donations, and only one corporation replied to his request. Mike wanted to know if the Tribal Council was going to help with the pow wow and he wanted to know how much they would donate. **Chairman Dolson** advised the council told Rodney they would support the event. Rodney had three different amounts he had proposed so the council was never told an exact amount of money that was needed, and Rodney has not provided the necessary information. Council stated it is an important event and that is why they wanted all the corporations to donate. Council has been waiting for Rodney to report back and let them know how much funding TERS is requesting from the Tribes and how much they received from the corporations. **Tom McDonald** commented that the council was supportive of having a community gathering such as that pow wow celebration. **Martin Charlo** stated the council told Rodney to come back to council after speaking to the tribal corporations. The other issue is if we do a big pow wow like this it should be held on a Friday or Saturday instead of on a Thursday. The Ronan High School is holding their pow wow that Friday so that would be a conflict. The council needs to know an exact amount of money that TERS is requesting. **Mike Kenmille** requested a \$20,000 donation and he would like the funding to be expedited. **Greg Spahr**, Financial Management, will follow up and email Rodney Bird a request for a list of the corporations he requested support from; contact the corporations to see what their level of support will be; and request that Rodney provide a budget. **Chairman Dolson** will speak to Rodney Bird, as well. **Mike Kenmille** commented that it would require a lot of work for them if the council is going to require a breakdown of costs as part of the budget. **Council** scheduled Greg Spahr and Rodney Bird to return to council at 2:30 p.m. today.

**Mike Kenmille** informed council that the reservation schools are being honored at the Salish Kootenai College Pow Wow but Two Eagle River School is not being included and are not on the poster. Mike wanted to know why TERS students are being excluded. **Chairman Dolson** will follow up.

**Tara Irvine**, Tribal Lands Department, presented a request from Flathead Raft Company for a five-year business lease to operate a hub for guided river raft trips and the sale of merchandise on Tribal Tracts T4514 and T4469 in Polson. Options presented were: (1) approve a five-year business lease, so long as all leasing requirements are met, including rent of \$500 per month and a payment of \$1,560 during peak season of July and August, provide proof of required insurance, and payment of the required bond; (2) deny request; and (3) hold further discussion. **James Steele, Jr.** mentioned there needs to be an understanding with the lessee that there may be election signs posted on that property during the months the business is not operating. The signs continually get torn down or removed. Tara had a meeting with the lessee. The lessee had written in their policies that they would not post anything about politics on that property, but they did not understand the Tribes were approving those campaign signs. The lessee was willing to come to council and explain their actions and they apologized for their actions. **Chairman Dolson** wanted to know what the fair market value was. Tara has some appraisals being done and this parcel is on the list to be appraised. The rental rate will be set at \$500 per month and Tara will request a modification to the lease once the appraisal is done.

**MOTION** by Tom McDonald to go with option 1 and extend the rental of the lot to match the term of the lessee's general operations lease that expires on June 28, 2025. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

**Len TwoTeeth** asked about that specific site. He knows woodcutters use that site to sell firewood and must pay \$25 for a permit to park there. It was brought to his attention that people use that site without a permit on weekends. Len suggested that the Tribal Lands Department look at assessing a one-year permit for the membership at a minimal cost to use that site because they do not make much money when they sell a load of firewood. He would like the staff to return to council with some options for issuing one-year permits for those activities. **Tara Irvine** responded tribal members receive free-use permits to use that lot. Tribal members are charged a \$15 administrative fee and nonmembers are charged a \$25 fee. The staff ensures people using the site have valid permits.

**Evan Smith**, Natural Resources Department, informed council that the Environmental Protection Agency is doing an enforcement action on the Timberlane Auto on Songer Road storage site owned by the Talismans. The vehicles will be removed to a crusher and relocated by a semi-truck. The bridge in that area has washed out and they cannot reach the vehicles on the western

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side of the property. The EPA is seeking approval to access tribal land to peruse their enforcement action to remove the vehicles that are jeopardizing tribal water quality standards. The request is for permission for the semi-trucks, loader, and rollback trucks to access the site from Songer Road and parking the semi-trucks on the road. The loader and rollback trucks would access the vehicles on the west side of Mud Creek through the tribal bridge.

**MOTION** by Tom McDonald to allow the semi-trucks, loader, and rollback trucks to access the site from Songer Road and parking the semi-trucks on the road and the loader and rollback trucks to access the vehicles on the west side of Mud Creek through the tribal bridge, pending an evaluation of the bridge holding the load proposed. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

**Patricia Hibbeler**, Director of Tribal Member Services; and **Stephanie Iron Shooter**, Department of Public Health and Human Services; gave an update on the reorganization and priorities of the DPHHS. Stephanie handed out a packet of information, which included the Medicaid Revenue Report for CSKT. Casey Peck is familiar with Medicaid and will be here next week. The Director of the Medicaid Division resigned. Stephanie discussed the HB 872 funding of \$300 million for behavior health and disabilities. The commission held a meeting and tribes were able to report on their needs. The Tribal Council was invited to speak to the commission about their proposal and needs on May 20, 2024. Patricia informed council that the Tribal Health Department submitted a proposal that was approved by Tribal Council, along with a proposal for 8 Shields Red Nation. The organization chart for the Office of American Indian Health was updated and two job descriptions will be expanded based on the needs expressed by tribes at the March 6 meeting. The job descriptions were sent to the Tribes for review and approval. Stephanie will be the point of contact for the Directors Office. One of the jobs was revised to work on policy development and Medicaid education. The Child Welfare position was written based on the recommendations by tribes. It was expanded to be more flexible to help with the Child Welfare system and how it interacts with the tribal welfare system. They are here this week to film CSKT and are interviewing individuals as part of the Taking Care of Indigenous Persons project. DPHHS received IBR approval to do this project. They filmed the Kootenai Culture Committee yesterday. They will be at the tribal complex all day today, and the council members were invited to be interviewed. The film will be showcased to each tribe. Patricia would like the council members to film and speak about their vision for the CSKT members moving forward. Carole Lankford volunteered and will be interviewed this morning. Stephanie presented the agenda for next week's meeting. Patricia made arrangements for Patricia Courchane and Natalie Kenmille to attend the SNAP consultation and they will bring back key information for CSKT. There will be a Maternal Tribal Health Needs Assessment completed. Stephanie will visit with tribal staff about how the Tribes want DPHHS to engage them around the required needs assessments.

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There was information in the packet about data. **Joe Durglo** would like the State to define what consultation is with tribes and understand what our needs are. Tribes receive task orders for services and the department administers those. Tribes cannot administer the program. There are federal issues we need to lobby for. **Len TwoTeeth** suggested we send that message to next week's meeting and let them know CSKT will lobby to start that process. **Martin Charlo** took that challenge to DC.

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

**Craige Couture**, Law & Order; **Dan Decker**, **John Harrison**, **Lana Page**, **Shane Morigeau**, **Chelsea Colwyn**, **Michael Wheeler**, **Brian Upton**, **Katie Jones**, **Zach Zipfel**, and **Lynsey Gaudioso**, Legal Department; requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters.

**Dan Decker**, **Shane Morigeau**, **Chelsea Colwyn**, **Katie Jones**, **Michael Wheeler**, **Brian Upton**, **Zach Zipfel**, and **Lynsey Gaudioso**, Legal Department, continued to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters.

**Council** met in **executive session**.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

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

**Lisa Shourds**, Director of Administrative Services; **John Neiss**, Facilities Maintenance; and **Dan Durglo**, S&K Mission Management; requested approval of Task Order 107 in the amount of \$230,662 for the Arlee Pow Wow grounds to build walls and ceiling, install shelving, paving for septic dump station(s), dance pavilion roof repairs, remove siding to provide more dining space and additional picnic tables, the main bathroom water capacity issue assessment, construct medical building, test and repair electrical, and test old bathroom for contaminants. **Len TwoTeeth** asked if the project is inspected after completion and if there are any warranties. Dan advised warranties are in place and there is a sign-off by all parties before the final closeout is done. **Martin Charlo** commented that the contract expires on July 7, 2024, and he wants to make sure the work is done in time for the pow wow. Dan responded the work will be done prior to the pow wow, but they want to be available during the pow wow in case issues arise. Len asked if there are penalty clauses in case contractors do not meet the deadline. Dan advised there are no penalty clauses but they are paid in stages as the work is performed. **Bing Matt** would like someone to be available if problems come up during the pow wow. John advised the pow wow is not IDC funded. He thinks the pow wow is under the Tribal Lands Department now, and the water is through the Salish Kootenai Housing Authority. Maintenance has an on-call number for after-hour needs. Bing mentioned the

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electrical panels. There are no switches to the RV hookups. There needs to be a control box to shut things off if needed. John asked if that issue was brought up in the meeting because it should have been included in the scope of work if it was. John did not think Mission Valley Power would turn on the power without there being any disconnect. John will follow up.

**MOTION** by Tom McDonald to approve Task Order 107 in the amount of \$230,662 for the Arlee Pow Wow grounds work. Seconded by Carole Lankford. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

**Lisa Shourds**, Director of Administrative Services; **John Neiss**, Facilities Maintenance; and **Dan Durglo**, S&K Mission Management; requested approval of Task Order 108 in the amount of \$95,056 for the Elmo Pow Wow grounds to do paving, excavate and level, fencing, medical station construction, electrical work, concession work, dust abatement, and purchase of lumber treatment materials. There were meetings with both pow wow committees in November and there were multiple site visits. A list of needs was developed. **Leonard Michel** has been trying to communicate with SKMM throughout the process and was told a lot of things could not be done. Electricity for craft vendors and a medial building are needed. Dust abatement does not need to be included in the project. Dan stated the electrical pedestal work could be looked at with other funding sources. Leonard did not want the task order approved as is. He would like some of the work to be deleted from the task order and add in the electrical work for 20 vendor spots. Len thought all of the work was important and he suggested approving the task order as is and include the electrical outlets for vendors. **Greg Spahr**, Financial Management, understood to change paths would be an equally costly work plan and outlets would be added to that. It would be a lesser add-on to include the outlets rather than doing a completely new task order. Funding could be found to cover the cost to include the outlets. **Chairman Dolson** would prefer to move forward with Task Order 108 as is and then do another task order for the electrical outlet work. Dan responded that the cost to do a new task order is unknown at this time due to the need to contact Mission Valley Power and contractors for the costs. It would take a significant amount of time and effort to modify the task order to include the electrical pedestals.

**MOTION** by Len TwoTeeth to approve Task Order 108 in the amount of \$95,056 for the Elmo Pow Wow grounds and add the electrical outlets for craft vendors. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

**Bing Matt** requested there be some elder parking and one way signs at the Arlee Pow Wow grounds. **John Neiss** will follow up.

**Ruth Swaney**, Financial Management, presented a request to purchase capital equipment consisting of a dump trailer for the Bison Range at an estimated cost of \$14,000; the purchase of a manufactured structure for the Salish Qlispe

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Culture Committee Adult Language Program at an estimated cost of \$350,000; the purchase of a large SUV for the Salish Qlispe Culture Committee at an estimated cost of \$75,000; and the purchase of a SUV for the Char-Koosta News at an estimated cost of \$47,000. The requests were not included in the enactment of the fiscal year 2024 budget, so council approval is required. There was discussion on the request from Char-Koosta News. **Tom McDonald** was not opposed to CKN purchasing a vehicle, but he would like to improve our carbon footprint and increase hauling opportunities. Climate change is critical, and we need to purchase the best fuel efficient vehicles. Ruth advised the procurement policy does not have any regulations about climate change or fuel efficiency. **Chairman Dolson** commented the request does not state a specific vehicle type, so the program could purchase a vehicle that takes climate change into consideration.

**MOTION** by Tom McDonald to approve the purchase of capital equipment consisting of a dump trailer for the Bison Range at an estimated cost of \$14,000; the purchase of a manufactured structure for the Salish Qlispe Culture Committee Adult Language Program at an estimated cost of \$350,000; the purchase of a large SUV for the Salish Qlispe Culture Committee at an estimated cost of \$75,000; and the purchase of a SUV for the Char-Koosta News at an estimated cost of \$47,000. Seconded by Len TwoTeeth. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

**Greg Spahr**, Financial Management, stated he could include the climate change resolution in the budget process and ask departments to take climate change into consideration when making capital equipment purchases.

**Ruth Swaney**, Financial Management, requested approval of the recommendations for the fiscal year 2025 allocation targets. There were no increases in allocations. Tribal programs will prepare fiscal year 2025 budgets based on the allocation targets.

**MOTION** by Tom McDonald to approve the Recommendation 1 – Appropriation from Reserves in addition to \$40.28 million of projected revenue, up to \$32.14 million to be appropriated from available reserves to the fiscal year 2025 General Fund budget. Available reserves include Treasury, Local Revenue, Enterprise Dividends, Gaming, State-Tribal Revenue Sharing, and Recreation Permits. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

**MOTION** by Bing Matt to approve Recommendation 2 – Permanent Appropriations – of the total \$72.42 million in General Fund allocations, a total of \$16.05 million in permanent appropriations (+\$130,000) for the following programs and activities. Available revenues and reserves include Treasury, Local Revenue, Enterprise Dividends, Gaming, State-Tribal Revenue Sharing, and



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Recreation Permits. Seconded by Danielle Matt. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

**MOTION** by Tom McDonald to approve Recommendation 3 for A, B, and C for a total of \$45.275 million for mandatory appropriations. Seconded by Daneille Matt. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

**MOTION** by Tom McDonald to approve Recommendation 4 for a total of \$11.1 million in Discretionary Appropriations to be appropriated for programs and activities. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

**Rodney Bird, Arleen Adams and Mike Kenmille**, Two Eagle River School; and **Greg Spahr**, Financial Management; requested to meet with council in **executive session**.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**MOTION** by Tom McDonald to donate \$20,000 for the Two Eagle River School 50th Anniversary Pow Wow on May 30, 2024. Seconded by Carole Lankford. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

Council **adjourned** at 3:35 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, May 14, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

**CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES**

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Martin A. Charlo  
Tribal Council Secretary