

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

Volume 24 Number 53  
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: May 16, 2024  
Approved: May 23, 2024

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jennifer Finley (Personal Time Off); and James “Bing” Matt (Intertribal Timber Council Meeting).

**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. **James Steele, Jr.** is at a meeting with a Tribal member and staff at RCM.

The meeting was opened with a **prayer** by Chairman Dolson.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for May 15, 2024 were presented for approval.

**MOTION** by Len TwoTeeth to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for May 15, 2024, with corrections. **MOTION WITHDRAWN.** The minutes were tabled until next week.

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

**MOTION** by Tom McDonald to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Danielle Matt. Carried, unanimous (7 present).

**Linden Plant** and **Tony Plant** requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss a personal matter. **Jordan Thompson**, Tribal Executive Office; and **Laurence Kenmille** and **Arlen Tellier**, Enrollment Office; were present for discussion.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**MOTION** by Carole Lankford to bring the language back on the Enrollment policy to accept DNA as a permanent document for purposes of enrollment. Seconded by Jim Malatare. Carried, unanimous (7 present).

**Teddy Lawrence** requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss a personal matter. **Jordan Thompson**, Tribal Executive Office; **Lana Page**, Legal Department; and **Patricia Hibbeler**, Director of Tribal Member Services; were present for discussion.

**Jordan Thompson**, Tribal Executive Office; **Melissa Schlichting**, **Shane Morigeau**, and **Lana Page**, Legal Department; **Ryan Rusche**, Sonosky Law Firm; and **Gwen Lankford**, Consultant; requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters.

**James Bible**, S&K Business Services/Sovereign Leasing & Finance, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to provide a report. **Jordan Thompson**, Tribal Executive Office; and **Greg Spahr**, Financial Management, was present for discussion.

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

**Maggie Goode**, **Felicia McDonald**, and staff from the Juvenile Probation Office, requested to meet with council in **executive session**.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**Brad Pluff**, **Jami Pluff** and **Dana Comes At Night**, Tribal Court, held a Healing Court graduation ceremony for Jeremiah Michel. The Healing Court was created and began taking individuals on June 22, 2023 to help tribal members deal with addictions and is a long-term treatment program. **Mike Kenmille** sang a song. A certificate was given to Anthony Placid for moving to phase 2 and Lovanda Curley was given a certificate for moving to phase 3. The Healing Court is accepting Wayne TwoTeeth and Sunny Charlo today. Regina Plumb is starting the 30-day probation period today. Jeremiah is the first graduate of the Healing Court. Jeremiah stated it has been a challenging process, but he has now been sober for 1,579 days. He encouraged the elders to help people heal during their journey. Jeremiah does not want to leave anyone behind and he encourages individuals who are struggling with addiction to go through the program. Junior Caye was happy to see that the CSKT has a program like this now; he had to get sober on his own. James Big Beaver graduated from the Lake County Drug Court and thanked Jeremiah for supporting him during that time. James congratulated Jeremiah for graduating. Pete Aimsback shared his story. Pete has been in and out of the system but now he has 7 years of sobriety. He started attending Salish Kootenai College and received the Student Achiever Award from Helena. Pete plans on going to the University of Montana to get a PhD in

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addictions counseling and mental health. Unity is important to succeed. CSKT has shaped his life and how to move forward and he thanked the Tribes for supporting him. Pete was hired as the On-site Manager at the TLC. He wants to be a role model for those who are struggling. Jami Pluff announced she was recently hired as the Case Manager and she looks forward to working with the participants. She hopes there will be money attached to the addictions resolution that was approved by the council to help support the program. Jami commented on the importance of the program. Her daughter has been in recovery for two years. The Chief Cliff Drum Group sang an honor song.

\*\*\*\*\* **Lunch** \*\*\*\*\*  
**Prayer by Carole Lankford**

**James Steele, Jr.** joined the meeting.

**Council** met in **executive session** to conduct interviews for the Salish Kootenai Housing Authority Board of Commissioners vacancies. **Melanie Piedalue**, Personnel Department, was present for interviews.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**MOTION** by James Steele, Jr. to accept the results of the ballot and appoint Kathleen Ross to the Salish Kootenai Housing Authority Board of Commissioners for a four-year term and appoint Jolene Gauthier to fill the partial term ending on April 1, 2027. Seconded by Len TwoTeeth. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

**Martin Charlo** presented a request from Dave Strohmaier, Missoula County Commissioner, for a letter of support to apply for a grant to conduct a study for the Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority. It was the **consensus** of council to approve the letter.

**James Steele, Jr.** informed council that Jara Stewart wanted council to know that Lake County was taxing tribal members for a tribal litigation tax; she opposed paying that tax.

**Martin Charlo** informed council he will be helping the Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority with a conference and reception on June 7. Council is invited to the event.

**James Steele, Jr.** informed council he went to the Recovery Center this morning and met with tribal members and the faculty. The center was working on their licensing with the state and became fully licensed last week. It is a good center and has helped a number of our people. The center has about 40 individuals currently.

**Len TwoTeeth** announced that tribal member Bryan Dupuis was recently hired as the Chief Judge of the Blackfeet Tribe. Bryan has gone through many challenges to get to where he is today and he is a remarkable young man. Bryan graduated from law school, and the Tribes should take pride in his accomplishments. Bryan is a resilient young man and Len is proud of him.

**MOTION** by James Steele, Jr. to adjourn the meeting.

Council **adjourned** at 2:40 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

**CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES**

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Martin A. Charlo  
Tribal Council Secretary