

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

Volume 24 Number 54
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: May 23, 2024
Approved: May 28, 2024

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

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

The meeting was called to **order** at 9:03 a.m. Quorum established. **Bing Matt** is on personal time off and will join the meeting later. **Jennifer Finley** will arrive later this morning.

The meeting was opened with a **prayer** by Jim Malatare.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for May 14, 2024 were presented for approval.

MOTION by Len TwoTeeth to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for May 14, 2024, with corrections. Seconded by Danielle Matt. Carried, unanimous (7 present).

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for May 16, 2024 were presented for approval.

MOTION by Len TwoTeeth to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for May 16, 2024, with corrections. Seconded by Tom McDonald. Carried, unanimous (7 present).

Chairman Dolson presented a request for a two-hour change of duty for tribal employees to attend the Women For Wellness Conference today.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to grant tribal employees a two-hour change of duty, with supervisor approval, to attend the Women For Wellness Conference today. Seconded by Danielle Matt. Carried, unanimous (7 present).

Len TwoTeeth informed council of the loss of tribal member Betty Weaselhead. Betty worked at the Elders program and was very instrumental with getting services to elders. It is a huge loss for the Tribes, and Len requested that the tribal flags be flown at half-mast on the day of her final journey. It was the **consensus** of council to fly the tribal flags at half-mast on the day of Betty's service.

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

MOTION by Danielle Matt to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Len TwoTeeth. Carried, unanimous (7 present).

Mary Cole and **Donald Chaney** informed council that Donald wants to work with tribal people and give back to the community. Donald shared information about his past, including serving two tours of duty in Iraq. Donald worked for the prison system for ten years. He studied a self-defense system for five years and he wants to bring it home to help with the war on obesity and other needs. He offers classes and also teaches karate. Donald has a business in Anaconda but can come here to provide classes. Donald is offering a free self-defense seminar tomorrow at the Ronan Tribal Senior Center. **Carole Lankford** thought it would be a good program for the Healing Court and Drug Court. She suggested working with Patricia Hibbeler to incorporate this program into the Tribal Health Department. The classes could be held at the Fitness Center. This type of therapy could help children become more confident. **Jennifer Trahan** suggested Donald get on the Indian Preference list so she can enter into a contract for him to provide training to Leniece Trahan, Sergeant at Arms. Jennifer will send out an everyone email to announce tomorrow's seminar. **Tom McDonald** thought it may be a good program for the Youth Crew.

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

Len TwoTeeth gave an update regarding a family he has been working with. A tribal member had reached out to him regarding his two children that are caught up in the Child Protection Services system. Both of the children were found. Communication was cut off with both children and they will be sent away. One child will be going to Texas and the other child will be going to Utah. The Tribes need to pay attention and be cognizant of what is going on. They have no voice once they are in the system. The children will be gone until they are 18 years old and they will not be able to see their family members until then. Len would like the legal staff to review this matter before the boys are shipped out. **Danielle Matt** stated our children that are going to be out of state need to be connected to their home and culture, and she is willing to provide support with that effort.

Alan "Speedy" Matt informed council he was in the hospital for three years. Three of his grandchildren were taken away during that time. He thought the

ICWA happened a long time ago. We need to get these kids out of the wrong hands. His life was messed up by not knowing who his father was. Speedy had no parents in the orphanage so he was sold to a family in Texas when he was six years old. Speedy would like to find out if he has any rights to visit his grandchildren. Speedy played a song on his guitar. **Tom McDonald** mentioned the need for tribal members to be willing to serve as foster parents.

Jody Cahoon-Perez, Salish Kootenai Housing Authority, requested approval of a resolution authorizing the Salish Kootenai Housing Authority to apply for, receive, and administer the Department of Energy Tribal Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates Program on behalf of the Tribes. A portion of the funding will be used installing heating and air conditioning units in elder designated units, provide a \$7,000 rebate for tribal member households, and fund a Coordinator position.

MOTION by Tom McDonald to approve the resolution authorizing the Salish Kootenai Housing Authority to apply for, receive, and administer the Department of Energy Tribal Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates Program on behalf of the Tribes. Seconded by Len TwoTeeth. Carried, 6 for; 0 opposed; 1 not voting (Carole Lankford out of the room).

RESOLUTION 24-086

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALISH AND KOOTENAI HOUSING AUTHORITY TO APPLY FOR, RECEIVE, AND ADMINISTER THE DOE TRIBAL HOME ELECTRIFICATION AND APPLIANCE REBATES PROGRAM ON BEHALF OF THE TRIBES

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

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes is the duly recognized governing body of the Flathead Nation with the responsibility to ensure safe, decent, and affordable housing for the tribal members within the exterior boundaries of the Flathead Nation; and

WHEREAS, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have designated the Salish and Kootenai Housing Authority as their Tribally-Designated Housing Entity, with the authority to administer and participate in housing programs for the benefit of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and their members; and

WHEREAS, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes desire to have an application for the DOE Tribal Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes
May 23, 2024

Program prepared and submitted on behalf of the Tribes to develop and implement high-efficiency electric home rebate programs; and

WHEREAS, the rebate programs should help reduce the upfront costs of efficient electric appliance and other accompanying home energy upgrades for low to moderate income tribal households.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes that it hereby delegates the Salish and Kootenai Housing Authority the authority to prepare and submit on behalf of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes an application for the Tribal Home Electrification and Appliance Rebate Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes that it hereby states and acknowledges that the Tribes will not be applying for the DOE Tribal Home Electrification and Appliance Rebate Program as their own entity.

Jody Cahoon-Perez informed council that her staff is not getting paid enough and she asked if the Tribes were considering a COLA for employees. **Chairman Dolson** responded there has not been any discussion about approving a COLA. **Len TwoTeeth** acknowledged the service of Bud Gillin, who is retiring from the Salish Kootenai Housing Authority.

Rich Janssen, Casey Ryan, Brian Hogenson, and Seth Makepeace, Natural Resources Department; and **Melissa Schlichting**, Legal Department; gave an update on the implementation of water compact instream flows. The Tribes have had 27 interim instream flows since the late 1980s. It was suggested that the council tour the projects that have been completed to date.

Rich Janssen, Scott Johnston, Whisper Camel-Means, and Dan McClure, Natural Resources Department, gave an update on what was found on the intentions of the wildlife management areas in the Hog Heaven and Irvine Flats areas. Scott requested direction on how to close some routes to the tribal member only routes. In order to receive the Transportation Improvement federal funding the roads must be open to the public. The roads can be closed due to cultural reasons, and Scott requested direction on which roads need the access changed. **Len TwoTeeth** stated the council took action to close those management areas to nontribal members. The problem is the BIA roads were constructed with federal funds, which allows public access. Many nontribal members utilize these roads without a tribal recreation permit. A solution he wants to explore a request through the Superintendent's office to abandon a portion of those roads, such as the first one-eighth of the road and revert them back to tribal ownership so any nontribal members would be required to obtain a tribal permit to utilize those roadways. The Tribes need to challenge the county as to whether they even

maintain those county roads on the map. Nenemay Road is an example where the county receives funding to maintain it, but they do not maintain it. **Carole Lankford** would like those areas reviewed by the Culture Committee. **Tom McDonald** talked about the requirement to qualify for that federal funding that the road must be open to the public. Those roads would need to be removed from the public inventory. Tom has issues with recreation permits not being required on a system road. The permits should be applied as long as the road is on tribal property. Permits are required on public roads crossing tribal property and that is not being enforced by certain members of the judicial system. Every road at Glacier Park is funded by tax dollars, but people are required to pay a fee to be on that road. The Tribes have the authority to charge people a fee and demand a tribal recreation permit for people to be on roads that cross tribal land. The issue is whether it is closed to the public due to cultural reasons. The issue of Kelly hump roads is a separate issue and process, and that is a situation where it is closed to everyone. **Steve McDonald** stated the Kootenai Culture Committee let the program know they want the BIA road system turned over to the Tribes. There are some fee tracts in those areas and the Tribes cannot deny access to those. The BIA has maintenance funding for BIA roads, but CSKT does not have a program to fund tribal roads. Improvements are done when there is a timber sale. Scott will bid the roads for Dixon this summer.

Bing Matt joined the meeting.

Scott Johnston clarified that the roads must be removed from the BIA inventory in order for the Tribes to close them to the public. Scott explained the superintendent would need to sign off on an agreement and the roads owned by Lake County would require some type of agreement. **Len TwoTeeth** would like the County to abandon Nenemay Road and revert it back to tribal ownership. **Tom McDonald** suggested that Shane bring back the agreement for council action.

Patricia Hibbeler, Director of Tribal Member Services, requested approval of a resolution authorizing the Tribal Education Department to partner with the Department of Public Health and Human Services Office of American Indian Health and Montana Office of Rural Health and Area Health Education to create a training titled Caring For Indigenous Montanans.

MOTION by Len TwoTeeth to approve the resolution authorizing the Tribal Education Department to partner with the Department of Public Health and Human Services Office of American Indian Health and Montana Office of Rural Health and Area Health Education to create a training titled Caring For Indigenous Montanans. Seconded by Jim Malatare. Carried, 8 for; 0 opposed; 0 not voting.

RESOLUTION 24-087

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRIBAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT PARTNER WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES OFFICE OF AMERICAN INDIAN HEALTH AND MONTANA OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH AND AREA HEALTH EDUCATION TO CREATE A TRAINING TITLED “CARING FOR INDIGENOUS MONTANANS”

WHEREAS, The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services Office of American Indian Health has partnered with the Montana Office of Rural Health and Area Health Education Center to create tribe specific trainings for medical providers to increase cultural confidence in providers and clinic staff titled, “Caring for Indigenous Montanans”, and

WHEREAS, the “Caring for Indigenous Montanans” training will include topics such as Colonization and Historical Trauma, Tribe-specific History and Traditions, Tribe-specific perspectives of health, Historical and contemporary survey of U.S. health system interactions with Native people, and cultural humility in healthcare delivery, and

WHEREAS, the Montana Office of Rural Health and Area Health Education Center has funding available to pay community members, providers, and knowledge keepers to be part of filmed interviews, supervised by the Office of American Indian Health to be include in the training, and

WHEREAS, filming will also include “b roll” footage of the landscape, and community events, including natural and manmade features, pow wows, and general community images. Recognizable people will be compensated and provided with a release to sign granting permission to use their image and,

WHEREAS, the Tribal Education Department wishes to focus on partnerships and collaboration between tribal, state and local systems to reduced health disparities and increase cultural competency in non-Native provider who work with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Council will support collaborations for the project in the following areas: Creation of the “Caring for Indigenous Montanans” training.

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

Lana Page, Katie Jones, John Harrison, Brian Upton, Melissa Schlichting, Shane Morigeau, and Zach Zipfel, Legal Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters. **Jordan Thompson**, Tribal Executive Office, was present for discussion.

Jennifer Finley joined the meeting.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

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

Ryan Applegate and **Donna Gaukler**, City of Missoula Parks and Recreation, met with council in **executive session** to provide an update.

Jordan Thompson, Tribal Executive Office; **John Harrison**, **Shane Morigeau**, Legal Department; **R.C. Hammond** and **Eric Iverson**, Mercury; and **Gwen Lankford**, Consultant; requested to meet with council in **executive session** to provide an update.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Stephen Smallsalmon thanked the council for getting his sweat house done, and he invited them to go look at it. The work on the basement at Nkwusm is done now. Stephen invited council to the mini-pow wow and silent auction on May 31. He would like for the council to look at some pictures that are for sale.

Carole Lankford informed council that Bernadine Tenas was upset about tribal member Colleen Couture being taken out of the Elmo community. Colleen works for Tribal Health and Bernadine wants to make sure she stays in the community.

Carole Lankford received a message yesterday from Tracy Davis Shepard. She lives in a trailer with black mold. ARPA had to stop the work because the trailer needs some plumbing work and ARPA is not set up to do the plumbing work.

Danielle Matt informed council that she will be attending the MMIP Task Force meeting in Great Falls on June 19.

Danielle Matt invited council to attend the Renewed Horizons presentation in Dixon at 6:00 p.m. today.

James Steele, Jr. stated for the record, "The Lake County Commissioners have persistently displayed antagonism and disrespect towards the Tribes over the years. Their preference for private discussions with individual council members, despite our collective representation, is a clear indication of their disregard. It is imperative that they formally request to meet with all council members. Furthermore, I am vehemently opposed to any actions that support them; their disrespect extends not only to our tribes, but also to our community allies who share our vision for a better reservation."

Jennifer Finley asked if the staff provided a report on the issue regarding Cindy Marengo. **Chairman Dolson** advised the council has not received a report. **Len TwoTeeth** would like Jordan Thompson to follow up and have the staff send council a report via email.

Tom McDonald requested a Health Committee meeting and an Enrollment Committee meeting be scheduled.

Jennifer Finley wants to invite the SKC Board to discuss their strategy and how they are moving forward. Jennifer Trahan can get the board scheduled once she receives an agenda request.

Len TwoTeeth requested that Greg Spahr provide a report on how we are going to move forward with the low-cost block dividend that Energy Keepers, Inc. received so we can let people know.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to adjourn the meeting.

Council **adjourned** at 2:44 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, May 28, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Martin A. Charlo
Tribal Council Secretary