

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

Volume 24 Number 56  
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: May 30, 2024  
Approved: June 4, 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 (Working at the Satellite Voting Office – Hot Springs, Montana); 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 9:04 a.m. Quorum established.

The meeting was opened with a **prayer** by Len TwoTeeth.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for May 28, 2024 were presented for approval.

**MOTION** by James Steele, Jr. to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for May 28, 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).

**Len TwoTeeth** gave an update regarding the meeting that took place with tribal member Clarence Lafley last month about some options on how to rectify things with him. Corky Sias reached out and let Len know he has an opening on his organizational chart for a full-time position that could be filled with Clem. Len wanted clarification from the council that they were going to look at getting Clem a full-time position with benefits. Clem will be pursuing his education, as well. **Chairman Dolson** wanted to move forward as discussed.

**Len TwoTeeth** mentioned the discussion that took place with the Governor's Office regarding the State's contribution to the water compact yesterday. It was a disappointing discussion that took place and he wants council to consider going a different direction with this specific issue. The Tribes put in a lot of work to build that government-to-government relationship and the State is jeopardizing that. There is a lot of work that needs to be done. **James Steele, Jr.** commented the Tribes had a meeting with the Missoula County Commissioners and had a nice meeting with them. The Missoula County Commissioners, the Sheriff, and the administration were there and it was a good discussion. It was refreshing to see the nice relationship the Tribes have with Missoula County.

**Jeff Patten**, Federal Highway Administration; **John Pavsek**, Montana Department of Transportation; **Joe Bushay**, Missoula District Engineer; **Rich Janssen** and **Whisper Camel-Means**, Natural Resources Department; provided a quarterly update as a follow-up to the meeting with the CSKT in February. A challenge is how to manage traffic during the Post Creek project. MDT wants to obligate monies from the \$12.9 million grant to break the project up into an early work package and find a section of the project that can be built early in order to spend that grant funding quicker. The goal is to have the plans completed by September. The rights-of-way will still need to be acquired. **Tom McDonald** supported expediting the project and using a detour for the traffic during the project. Tom is in favor of getting the Peoples Way highway completed in a safe manner for our people and wildlife. **Mr. Pavsek** stated if the CSKT receives grant funding for the Ninepipe section there will be a method of delivery and MDT would like the Tribes involved in the process. The deadline to expend those grant funds is in 2026. **Len TwoTeeth** reported on upcoming projects. S&K Gaming will be building a new casino on the north side of Polson bridge, and it will be a complex project to plan the egress and ingress into that property. Another important endeavor is the Elmo Store, which is in the preplanning phase right now. There will need to be some engagement with MDT on how we will work on Junction 82 and 93. There will be some discussion about the Big Arm Resort property and how to address the egress and ingress into both sides of that property. Len looks forward to the Highway 93 project getting completed. **Mr. Bushay** discussed the Highway 28 and Highway 93 intersection. MDT is going through the right-of-way process right now. It is an easement they have through tribal property and they need an approach permit from the Tribes. They have been working with S&K Gaming regarding the new casino and are working through the traffic impact study. They are also evaluating the intersection at Rocky Point Road and how that intersection will be impacted. **Shane Hendrickson**, Tribal Member, stated there is an animal crossing that is vital on our reservation. He saw the elk herd trying to cross the corners in Ravalli. The elk herd that migrates has no way to cross the highway in that area and that is a big issue. The elk migrate out of Pistol Creek through the draw and they cross the river there. Shane wanted to know what it would take to put in toll booths

on all entrance points of our reservation so the Tribes can charge a fee for people to drive through the reservation. **Alan “Speedy” Matt**, Tribal Member, stated Arlee is another area that needs to be addressed. A dangerous spot is Mission Creek. Many people have been killed walking through that area. People cannot get from the Indian Health Service to Doug Allard’s safely. The tribal pieces could be expanded east of the highway. There is some tribal property from Woodcock to the highway. Those wetlands are the most important wetlands, besides Ninepipe. Speedy would like there to be a tribal park. He wants a wheelchair walk on both sides of that area. Those wetlands should be preserved. **Mr. Patten** responded that the TA Grant program is available and may be a great opportunity and he can provide tribal staff some information about the community-led grant program that is specifically set aside for transportation alternatives.

**Alan “Speedy” Matt** and **Shane Hendrickson**, Tribal Members, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss a personal matter. **Patricia Hibbeler**, Director of Tribal Member Services; and **Jordan Thompson**, Tribal Executive Office; were present for discussion.

**Martin Charlo** left the meeting to participate in a Zoom meeting.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**Patricia Hibbeler**, Director of Tribal Member Services; **Patricia Courchane**, Department of Human Resources Development; **Teresa Wall-McDonald**, **Cindy Benson** and **Dan Depoe**, Mission Valley Power Utility Board; and **Zachary Conko-Camel**, Mission Valley Power; gave an update on a workforce development project to hire Groundman and potentially one or more apprentices under a four-year workforce development memorandum of agreement using DHRD 477 funds. An Electrician Assistant, Substation Assistant, Heavy Equipment Mechanic, and Accounting Technician were the four options that were presented and DHRD came back with an option that will work for Mission Valley Power. The project action plan includes general goals and requirements for the program to be successful to use DHRD funding. The participants must be a member of a federally recognized tribe or a first generation of CSKT, have an individual family plan, and income verification is required in order to use those federal funds. It will take up to four years to properly train individuals for those positions. **James Steele, Jr.** thought this could be a good model for all our tribal corporations or entities. **Len TwoTeeth** asked if there was an opportunity to negotiate more funding for the 477 program to fund more programs like this one or if it is a set amount we are given. **Chairman Dolson** advised there are 12 areas we can get funding for. **Len TwoTeeth** asked if the program would work with those folks if they need to go beyond four years. **Patricia Hibbeler** responded that would be part of the agreement with the union and the development of this particular program. **Zack Camel** explained it is mirrored after the union, but it is not tied to the union.

**Martin Charlo** returned to the meeting.

**MOTION** by Tom McDonald to approve the workforce development memorandum of agreement. **MOTION WITHDRAWN**. The memorandum of agreement will be reviewed by Contracts & Grants.

**Martin Charlo** asked about tree trimming. **Zack Camel** advised the Tree Trimmers' focus is to remove trees that are on the power lines. Mission Valley Power has 2,000 miles of line and 40,000 poles. The utility is working with a contractor that uses lidar technology that shows which trees are in the lines or close to the lines in the Finley Point area. It is called popcorn cutting. The Tree Trimmers only go to where their emergencies are. Zack would like to get on a cycle where they review the lines each year. Asking if Mission Valley Power can address tree issues at specific houses would be tough for the utility and they would need to look into liability issues. **Carole Lankford** discussed the Dixon Agency. Council had questioned the Roads program about the new roads system and the lighting. The community expressed the need to put the lights back in. Carole wanted to know who would pay to get the lights put back in and who would pay for the lights to stay on. She wanted to know who cared for the streetlights in Arlee and how to get those lights on again. Zack advised the State is responsible for the streetlights in Arlee. **Carole Lankford** mentioned the Pow Wow Road lights were turned off and they were told they needed to turn the switch back on. Zack responded the Salish Kootenai Housing Authority pays for that and it is expensive to fix them when people continue to shoot out the lights. Zack has thought about Hot Springs. One project for a Groundman is 168 poles go that way and there will be fire retardant paint on those poles. Mission Valley Power wants to strengthen its infrastructure. Mission Valley Power can do underground power at three times the cost, but that would reduce some issues.

**Carole Lankford** informed council that Bud Gillin retired from the Salish Kootenai Housing Authority and is now working for Tiny Homes. Bud asked if he can place three tiny homes in the compound. It is a continuing process of putting people in hotels. A homeless person was placed at the Allard's hotel for a week and another person was staying at a hotel while waiting to go to treatment. It is expensive to pay for people to stay in hotels and having those three units would be a cost savings to the Tribes. Those units could be used as temporary housing for people in need. Carole would be willing to volunteer her services by cleaning the units after people move out. Bud needs the go-ahead from council to place the other three homes there. **Patricia Hibbeler**, Director of Tribal Member Services, advised the plan that was brought in was for the development of tiny homes. Priority 1 was to provide temporary housing for people that DHRD would manage that are going from one living experience to another. Part of that included those individuals that are having extensive renovations done on their homes through the ARPA home repair program. Some of them need to be

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relocated while their house is being worked on. That allows us to have that space and DHRD can manage the flow through case management. A major concern is the fence line over there. Anything inside the fence has full access to the bull pen. They would need to move the fence line beyond those houses so it does not allow full access for people in those houses. Carole advised Bud Gillin would need access to get the cement trucks in there to do the foundations. There was a good district council meeting about the Drug Court and Project 30. NARS may consider taking that location and managing it and using the warming shelter as a year-round warming shelter if there was a memorandum of agreement. There are people coming out of the Drug Court that are trying to help other people get on the same path, and that fits with Project 30 and NARS. The Homeless Coordinator could manage it. **Patricia Courchane** informed council that DHRD is working with the Information Technology Department to get cameras installed in that area due to the significant number of break-ins. **Patricia Hibbeler** will follow up with DHRD and the Lands Department about getting those small homes placed. **Tom McDonald** agreed with the priorities in the plan and he asked if the tiny homes plan is still a draft document. **Patricia Hibbeler** responded it is still a draft document because DHRD was going to make some edits before bringing it back to the council. **Martin Charlo** asked if the Homeless Coordinator vacancy will be advertised. **Patricia Hibbler** advised it is moving through the Personnel process. **Tom McDonald** mentioned the Tribal Lands Department does chain-link fencing, so they have the skillset to remove that fence.

**Dan Buettner, Jr.**, Blue Zones Project; **Samantha Morigeau** and **Chelsea Kleinmeyer**, Tribal Health Department; gave a presentation on the Blue Zones Project which manages chronic diseases. Blue Jones Project has a series on Netflix that has been nominated for 6 Emmys. There will be further discussion about the program at the next Health Committee meeting.

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

Council **recessed** the regular meeting at 11:42 a.m. to conduct an Energy Keepers, Inc. shareholder representative meeting.

Council **reconvened** into the regular meeting at 12:33 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\* **Lunch** \*\*\*\*\*

**Brian Upton** and **Lana Page**, Legal Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters. **Greg Spahr**, Financial Management; and **Jordan Thompson**, Tribal Executive Office; were present for discussion.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

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Council **recessed** the regular meeting at 2:02 p.m. to conduct an S&K Gaming shareholder meeting.

**Danielle Matt** left the meeting for the remainder of the day at 2:45 p.m. to assist an elder get to Pow-wow.

Council **reconvened** into the regular meeting at 3:47 p.m.

**MOTION** by Tom McDonald to adjourn the meeting.

Council **adjourned** at 3:48 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

**CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES**

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Martin A. Charlo  
Tribal Council Secretary