

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

Volume 20 Number 64
Zoom Meeting

Held: June 11, 2020
Approved: June 16, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: Shelly Fyant, Chairwoman; 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.

OTHERS PRESENT: Jennifer Trahan, Council Office Manager; James Steele, Sr., 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 Anita Matt.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for June 9, 2020 were presented for approval. **Chairwoman Fyant** spoke to Jason Smith and found out that Governor Bullock committed to visiting the Pablo testing site on June 18. Shelly let Jason know that Len TwoTeeth would like the Governor to visit the Elmo site.

MOTION by Anita Matt to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for June 9, 2020, with corrections. Seconded by Len TwoTeeth. Carried, 9 for; 1 abstention (Bing Matt).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Ellie Bundy McLeod. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

Carole Lankford gave a report on the Polson Senior Center. There was a funeral at the center, and the toilets were plugged up and went downstairs; the place was left a mess; and it is possible that meth was used in the bathroom. That will be tested, and John Neiss will provide a written report to the tribal council. **Charmel Gillin** commented that if the damages are covered by the agreement people sign to use it, that policy should take care of all of that. Tony Incashola was going to write up protocols for use of the Longhouse for funerals. She thinks use of the building should be a standard. If the funeral home directors can make it part of their packet, that could be inserted. **Shelly Fyant** advised that Tony

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and Sadie wrote protocols for the Longhouse and Vernon for the Elmo Hall. When there was a funeral in Arlee, Shelly made sure the family and maintenance worker had a copy of those. Additionally, Tammy Matt met with everyone prior to the service to ensure the expectations were clear. **Chairwoman Fyant** will follow up with DHRD and Facilities Maintenance and obtain a copy of the protocols for further discussion. Currently, individuals must sign an agreement to use the Senior Centers for all events except memorial or funeral services.

Clayton Matt, Joe Durglo and **Brenda Bodnar**, Tribal Health Department, requested authorization to purchase capital equipment for the Optical program. The clinic has old equipment in a single location; it is obsolete and no longer serviced. This purchase would put updated equipment in both locations. It would be a sole source purchase. Clint researched the initial purchase and received several bids for the equipment.

MOTION by Len TwoTeeth to authorize the purchase of capital equipment for the Optical program. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

Mike Dolson informed council that the Homesteaders Rodeo is still being advertised and there are about 600 people talking about being there. The entrance lists are very long. This is probably the only rodeo happening around the country. **Anita Matt** said it was contracted out by a company in Columbia Falls and they have held a series of rodeos on Thursday nights. Mike wondered what the Sanders County Public Health thought about that. There have been no COVID-19 cases reported for Sanders County.

Alissa Snow, Cinda Burd-Ironmaker, Donavon Hawk, and **Mary LaForge**, Native Vote Team, introduced the team that will be working on the Native vote for the Flathead Indian Reservation. Cinda is the Deputy Political Director for Governor Bullock. Everyone hired are residents of Montana. Cinda will not be hitting the ground until it is safe to do so and allowed to by the Tribes. Alissa will be heading up the Native vote for the next cycle. They will be hiring organizers on every reservation and implemented strategic plans in each area to register voters and get people out to vote. This program is based off feedback that was received. People have been hired for the Get Out The Vote effort. There will be another cycle of hires in July and August. Some people did not know they were inactive and had to register again in order to vote. The organizers will get those people registered. Mary will be an organizer for Alissa. There will be online trainings for the organizers this year. Donavan has been part of the Democratic Party Committee for over ten years and has gotten involved in the local committee in Butte. He serves as the Treasurer for the Montana State Democratic Party. The party consists of about 170 people across the state. Every county has a central committee and we have 38 of those central committees. The team is trying to get the Native voice heard in those committees. Tribal

committees will be established, and each tribe will have its own committee. Those committees will have the ability to build their own bylaws. The focus is to get tribal people elected to the tribal committees and ensure that the Native voice is being heard. The team will follow the tribal guidelines in place and proceed safely. **Chairwoman Fyant** recommended that everyone watch a documentary on voter suppression entitled “Rigged”. The documentary goes over a ten-step playbook on voter suppression. Virtual screenings are available through www.riggedthefilm.com. **Carole Lankford** heard that a lot of votes in the Lake County election were disqualified. There were two lines on the signature envelope and some people signed where the address change was, so those ballots were thrown out. Alissa advised that there is a voter protection team and she will forward that information to the team for follow up. The team is taking names for who the Tribes would like to be part of that tribal committee. Once the committee is formed, there will be a bylaws training scheduled. **Shelly Fyant** commented that she was made aware on Facebook that there is a website to see if people’s ballot was accepted. She would like someone to follow up to see if our ballots were accepted. Alissa advised that people could go the My Voter Page Montana site to see if their ballots were accepted.

Michael McCormick, Livingston Food Resource Center (LFRC), and **Mary Stranahan**, Arlee CDC, discussed a model of how a food bank can be so much more than just food distribution. Michael has worked at the LFRC for ten years. Hunger is caused by poverty. The LFRC is addressing the root causes of poverty and identified three areas that have an impact on poverty. They restructured how they manage their food pantry. Instead of just depending on donations of day-old bread and wilted produce from grocery stores, they changed the model to create an impact in economic development, healthcare, and education. In his research, he defined the root causes of poverty are due to lack of economic opportunity; poor health; and lack of education, particularly related to lifestyle and personal health. The research defined health calendars as being critical. 40% of the people served at pantry are diabetic or have some other chronic disease. In the long term they were getting sicker, which was not the goal of the pantry. We have to feed people well in order for them to have good health and the energy to do the things necessary to get out of poverty, such as go to school, learn a trade, or go to work. They leveraged their role in a meaningful long-term lasting way and are having an impact on those three areas. The LFRC sources its food from local farmers. The nutrition guidelines is the first document to establish a new food pantry or repositioning or rebuilding an existing pantry, the document is the foundation that is going to drive many of the decisions that are made and actions that are taken long-term. The Livingston Food Resource Center was spending \$100,000 to buy food for the pantry and was distributing about 200,000 pounds of food every year. The Livingston Food Resource Center houses a food pantry. People come in and collect their own food instead of putting boxes of food together for the customers that they will not eat. The Community Kitchen serves multiple functions and caters meetings. Homemade

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bread is made at the Bakery and community members are purchasing their bread from them. They opened a separate bakery to bake fresh and healthy items and is making the homemade what bread available to food pantries in Montana at no cost. The revenues generated from selling baked goods to the community goes back into the center to support the programs. Stale bread does not provide any nutrition, and the homemade bread is healthy and provides necessary nutrients. The center has a community meeting room and offers educational classes. The Community Kitchen was used to bake bread until they outgrew it. The food is sourced from local farmers, which supports Montana growers and processors. 30 new jobs were created. Job creation is a critical part of addressing poverty. All programs are based on market research and addresses a specific need. The Senior Dinner Program was established to provide food for elders. Many elders cannot cook, or they live alone. Community surveys indicated an acute need, so he started the program to have a meal strategy, provide menus to provide nutrients to address dietary needs of the elderly. The program provides five frozen meals to about 65 elders each week. Volunteers delivery the meals to the elderly and notify the proper agency if there is a health issue or a wellness check is needed for the elders. Meals are designed to be nutritional for elders with chronic diseases. Ingredients and a nutritional analysis are shown on each meal, and education is provided. Every quarter the participants are surveyed to adjust the program, as necessary. The Food Pantry provides information on resources available and assists individuals to fill out paperwork for programs. He gave an overview of his partnership with local hospitals. When the hospital is discharging patients that have a challenge where they will not be able to cook for themselves will be added to the meal program. They also provide the same service for oncology patients going through cancer treatment. The hospital purchases all of its bread from the LFRC Bakery. The demand for the resource center's programs has tripled since the COVID-19 pandemic. The center offers summer camps and classes for students. For Students at Montana State University to become a registered dietitian, they must complete a one-year internship program. There is a team of dietitians that work with these programs. The Kids Cooking Camp is a five-day session. Kids learn about diet, nutrition, food safety, kitchen safety, and learn to wash their hands. The community gardens engage people in food preparation. Council was invited to tour the facilities in Livingston. **Chairwoman Fyant** commented that food security was evident during the pandemic and locally and nationally we have seen people wanting to grow their own food. **Martin Charlo** is starting a community garden in Pablo and wants to tour the center in Livingston. **Carole Lankford** volunteers at the Ronan Food Pantry. The Ronan center puts together boxes of food for families. There is a community kitchen in Polson. The Polson Food Pantry allows customers to shop for their own food.

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

Velda Shelby, Economic Development Office; **Rick Eneas**, Financial

Management; **David Hartshorn**, **Mariel Trigs**, **Michael Potter**, and **Catherine Ures**; gave an update on broadband. The plans were submitted, and one component was broadband. Information Technologies and the contractors are looking at the buildout. There is still a feasibility analysis that needs to be done. Management structures would not need to be built if we leased out to carriers. Velda has continued working with Geeks to flesh out the plans. The regulatory authorities need consideration. Velda continues working on the development of a cohesive plan to complement the buildout plan and the dynamic best uses for the Tribes. David gave an update on the buildout plan and the work that Chuck Reese has done. There is no plan for the last mile. The statement of work lays out the vision with three phases. Phase one is to conduct a development of economic development strategy, phase two is the planning and implementation based on the strategy set in phase one, and phase three is to identify supplemental funding. The statement of work includes the development of a sustainable plan for the long-term, develop an economic development strategy, and identify information sources. Mariel gave an update on the deployment of the last mile. The company has helped four tribal communities do that so far. The statement of work will be finalized and presented to the council for consideration. **Len TwoTeeth** wants Chuck Reese part of the conversation. Rick spoke to Chuck about Len's questions. Chuck is scheduled on next Tuesday's agenda.

Len TwoTeeth asked what the Economic Development Office has been doing to assist tribal businesses on the reservation with the CARES Act funding. **Velda Shelby** reported that there is no direct assistance program. She emailed the businesses on the TERO list. A lot of those people are reluctant to apply for the funding. There is much uncertainty out there. EDO wanted to provide direct assistance because it is critical for them to apply for the COVID-Related Relief Funds. Velda suggested that the Tribes provide grants through our CARES Act funding. Some of the tribal businesses do not think they are eligible for anything. Velda will enlist Brian Crawford to do the inspections. She needs the tribal council to approve official guidelines and determine what kind of funding is available (loans or grants). Len asked about how EDO is reaching out to tribal businesses that are not on the Indian Preference list. Velda has been posting information on the tribal, EDO and interoffice websites. It may be expanded to direct mail. **Carole Lankford** was contacted by some people that are waiting for an application from EDO to apply for CARES funding. There seems to be some miscommunication.

Michelle Mitchell, Tribal Education Department, informed council of the CSKT COVID-19 Youth Community Care and Awareness Campaign First Artist Launch. Kid Truth created a campaign that will launch live on Facebook at 3:00 p.m. tomorrow. He will perform a song and have a TikTok challenge. The campaign targets the youth (ages 12-18). The campaign will have other artists involved in this campaign, as well. Shadow Devereaux will release his track in

two weeks and Vinny Webster will release his in four weeks.

April Charlo, Jaimie Stevenson, Patricia Yawakie, and Stephen Hunt, Flathead Reservation Communication Action, is a grassroots organization that came together in a time of need. They are looking for temporary usages of the community centers in St. Ignatius and Arlee for sorting and storage purposes. The group will ensure the area is cleaned up and sanitized after use. **Martin Charlo** suggested checking with the Natural Resources Department to see if they have any extra refrigeration/freezer space available. The KHJCC had some big refrigeration and freezer units that were left there. Council suggested referring them to Rick Eneas and John Neiss. **Rick Eneas** advised that KHJCC would be a possibility for freezer space. There is no staging area available at the site. He will meet with John Neiss later today and someone will be in touch with April.

Rick Eneas, Financial Management, requested approval of a resolution authorizing the August 5, 2020 per capita distribution. July 16, 2020 is the cutoff date for distributions and holds.

MOTION by Anita Matt to approve by resolution the August 5, 2020 per capita distribution. Seconded by Ellie Bundy McLeod. Carried, 10 for; 0 opposed; 0 not voting.

RESOLUTION 20-115

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AUGUST 5, 2020 PER CAPITA DISTRIBUTION

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

WHEREAS, The Tribal Council established policy by Resolution 96-83 to make per-capita payments to tribal members three times annually during the months of December, April and August for each fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, said policy states that three equal per capita payments of \$400.00 will be made annually and that one-half (1/2) of each per capita distribution for each minor child enrolled in the Tribes is to be issued to said minor's parent or legal guardian and the other one-half (1/2) is to be placed in a trust account with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to accumulate and earn interest until said minor has reached legal age; and **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes that the Northwest Regional Director is requested to authorize the \$400.00 per capita distribution to be made during the month of August 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Director of Financial Management is directed and authorized to request sufficient tribal monies on deposit in the United States Treasury to be advanced to local status to effect said distribution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent, Flathead Agency, and the Director of Financial Management are authorized to apply these funds to judgments held by Tribal Court, to assignments through Tribal Credit, and voluntary child support and to those accounts under the control of the Superintendent; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the August 5, 2020 per capita distribution will be made to those members enrolled in the Tribes as of July 16, 2020, at 5:30 p.m.; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the deadline for claims to be withheld from individuals' August 5, 2020 per capita for judgments, assignments and IIM holds through the Superintendent and Director of Financial Management shall be no later than July 16, 2020, at 5:30 p.m.

Rick Eneas, Financial Management, presented for consideration a resolution vacating the Shelter in Place Order of March 26, 2020, as documented in Resolution 20-090, to be effective June 29, 2020. **Council** will discuss further.

Rick Eneas, Financial Management, discussed the priority planning document. **Martin Charlo** would like to share the information because there is a lot of misinformation on Facebook. **Len TwoTeeth** discussed his previous request for a payout to the membership. He would like to see a payment added to this document before it is disclosed to the membership. **Chairwoman Fyant** said we need a legal opinion on whether a payout to the membership would be an allowable cost with this funding. Rick is meeting with the audit firm next week to discuss parameters in which that may be a possibility. Legal will be looped into that. Everything is fluid and changing. As of right now, it is a gray area and before making it an official act he recommended obtaining clarification. **Martin Charlo** wanted to wait until we receive the clarification. It would be detrimental to the Tribes if it is not an allowable cost and we would have to pay it out of the general fund. **Charmel Gillin** wanted Len to outline some support for that request to qualify it. She was in favor of this economic stimulus if we can. If it is something that ends up being something we fund out of the general fund, that is a disservice to the membership. **Len TwoTeeth** commented that the guidelines says we can use that funding as a grant program. We do have options that we can look at. He is advocating that it be added to the list and the membership sees that list. The council works for the membership and it will show them that we are making every attempt to assist them during this

pandemic. If the document is released and shows no payout to the membership, the council is going to hear about it.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to approve the committee priorities as stated, with the caveat that those amounts may be changing as well as any other additional priorities. Seconded by Anita Matt. **MOTION AND SECOND WITHDRAWN**. This issue was tabled until next week.

Council met in **executive session**.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Carole Lankford informed council of a request to have a wedding on June 20 at the Tribal Park in Polson. Nontribal members would be in attendance. Amanda Bourdon has been working on the permit. **Council** commented that the shelter in place order is still in effect.

MOTION by Fred Matt to adjourn the meeting.

Council **adjourned** at 1:04 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, June 16, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Ellie Bundy McLeod
Tribal Secretary