

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

Volume 18 Number 37  
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: February 20, 2018  
Approved: March 6, 2018

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ronald Trahan, Chairman; Leonard Gray, Vice-Chairman; Troy Felsman, Secretary; Anita Matt, Treasurer; Shelly Fyant; Carole Lankford; Leonard TwoTeeth; Charmel Gillin; and James Steele, Jr.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Dennis Clairmont (Aquatic Invasive Species – Helena, Montana).

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jennifer Trahan, Council Office Manager.

The meeting was called to **order** at 9:06 a.m. Quorum established.

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

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for February 13, 2018 were presented for approval.

**MOTION** by Carole Lankford to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for February 13, 2018, with corrections. Seconded by Leonard Gray. Carried, 7 for; 2 abstentions (Charmel Gillin and James Steele, Jr.).

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for February 15, 2018 were presented for approval.

**MOTION** by Anita Matt to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for February 15, 2018, with corrections. Seconded by Charmel Gillin. Carried, 8 for; 1 abstention (James Steele, Jr.).

The **agenda** was presented for approval. The conflicts of interest were identified.

**MOTION** by Troy Felsman to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Leonard Gray. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

**Erica Shelby** and **Patrick Yawakie**, Salish Kootenai College, have come in for internship assistance from council, departments and the community. Patrick

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commented on Voter empowerment. **James Steele, Jr.** commented that it is very valuable and to research other intern programs and the other thing that we need is policies and ordinances and he does not feel that it is getting done and elections information. James was whole heartedly in support of this. **Shelly Fyant** brought up if we had a mailed in ballot and was picked up by hand instead of the pick-up process. Our government needs to work on our customer service and the last thing is we get tribal member letters and consultations are not getting forwarded to the proper departments/programs. She can't keep up. **Troy Felsman** stated we do need a lot of research on issues and government policy and is fully in support of this.

**Kelly Parker** and **Corky Sias**, Department of Human Resources Development, requested approval of the coordination plan required by MDT. The Department has already gotten the application submitted and approved for these funds but the coordination plan will need to be submitted and approved. The plan ensures that all clients in need are provided a ride. Sanders County Council on Aging, Lake County Council on Aging, Senior Citizens, Lake County Job Service, Lake County Elderly Homes is who the plan is with. The program continues to work on improving the routes to better serve the membership and employees. The program provides over 200 rides per day. **Shelly Fyant** asked how is this going to change and didn't they have a contract/agreement with THD, and with the Tribal Health Improvement Program would this impact the program. **Corky** stated that it would help. Shelly stated would it work better if THD taking on elderly, disabled and special needs care. Corky stated we try and accommodate all requests and currently ordering a bus for these types of requests. If this tribal health improvement program Joe Durglo had stated that the THIP is still needed for the number of and the old CHR program and the hands on program. This is why the coordination plan is important.

**MOTION** by Charmel Gillin to approve the coordination plan required by MDT for the FY19 funds. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, unanimous (8 present – Len TwoTeeth out of the room).

**Carole Lankford** asked Kelly Parker and Joe Durglo to assist two people with disabilities in Dixon and gave them the names.

**Joe Durglo**, Tribal Health Department, requested approval to extend the contract with Derek Azure to fill the Insurance Specialist position for an additional 60 days. Council previously approved a one-year contract on February 2, 2017.

**MOTION** by Anita Matt to extend the contract with Derek Azure to fill the Insurance Specialist position for an additional 60 days. Seconded by Carole Lankford. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

**April Charlo** and **Kris Kelly**, Special Olympics, invited council to attend the Invitational Special Olympics at Polson High School. The Polson High School Special Education teacher found out that Special Olympics cancelled the State Winter Games for the first time in 22 years and took it upon herself to host an invitational at Polson High School. It is an amazing thing and Kris Kelly and April Charlo would like to invite Tribal Council to attend. Currently, April Charlo is running a pilot project on the reservation to help schools start and sustain Special Olympics Programming on the reservation. Kris Kelly is the only team on the reservation and is doing an amazing job.

**Carolee Wenderoth** and **Tara Irvine**, Tribal Lands Dupuis, requested approval of a revocable permit through November 30, 2018 for the Ronan Boys & Girls Club to use the former Dupuis Smoke Signal building to accommodate the overflow of attendees at the club. Cleanup and maintenance would be done in lieu of any compensation and insurance would be required.

**MOTION** by Charmel Gillin to grant a revocable permit for the Ronan Boys & Girls Club through November 30, 2018 to use the former Dupuis Smoke Signal building to accommodate the overflow of attendees at the club; require cleanup and maintenance in lieu of any monetary compensation and require insurance. Seconded by James Steele, Jr. Carried, 8 for; 1 opposed (Charmel Gillin).

**Carolee Wenderoth** and **Tara Irvine**, Tribal Lands Department, requested approval of a revocable permit for the Arlee, St. Ignatius, Charlo, and Ronan Baseball Field Permits. Since the late 1980s, different community groups have requested Tribal lands for use as baseball fields and for other recreational facilities. In 1989, the Tribal Council approved a 25-year permit for Charlo Little League Baseball; however, Legal staff has since recommended that revocable permits should not extend longer than one or two years. In 1991, Council passed separate resolutions authorizing recreational uses at Elders Park in St. Ignatius, Dixon, Charlo, Ronan and Hot Springs. Today, a separate baseball organization; Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken, uses fields located on Tribal land in Ronan, Arlee, St. Ignatius Elders Park and Charlo. They have added the Tribes as a certificate holder on their insurance policy and are willing to pay a \$10 administrative fee for each permit. **James Steele, Jr.** commented that this is an in-kind contribution from the Tribe for the use of the land.

**MOTION** by James Steele, Jr. to approve the free-use permits, with bonding waived, for the Babe Ruth/Mission Mountain Cal Ripkan Baseball League to use baseball fields on Tribal Land at Arlee from April through August, 2018 and at Charlo, Ronan and St. Ignatius Elders Park from April through July 30, 2018 with a provision that any other entity that proposes to use the property must request a separate use permit from the Tribes, provide proof of event insurance prior to the event, and show that they will not conflict

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with the permit to the Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken League if their event is proposed during the term of the existing permit. Council approval to move forward with a permit for the “Blue” ball field in St. Ignatius to the Mission Girls Softball Association, waiving the use fee and bonding if the Association can provide proof of liability insurance coverage with the Tribes as a certificate holder, and provide a \$10 administrative fee. Seconded by Charmel Gillin. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

**Rich Janssen**, Natural Resources Department, requested approval to be reappointed to the Lake County Solid Waste Board for a three-year term. Rich has served as the Tribes’ representative on this board since 2004. The board meets on a quarterly basis or as needed.

**MOTION** by James Steele, Jr. to reappoint Rich Janssen to the Lake County Solid Waste Board for a three-year term. Seconded by Troy Felsman. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

**Rich Janssen**, Natural Resources Department, requested a support letter for Paula Webster to be designated to participate in EPA’s Tribal Technical Workshop.

**MOTION** by Troy Felsman to approve a support letter for Paula Webster to be designated to participate in EPA’s Tribal Technical Workshop. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

**Gabe Johnson** and **Dan Lozar**, Natural Resources Department, requested approval of a project specific agreement and funding and maintenance agreement with the Montana Department of Transportation for the Round Butte Road Pedestrian Path.

**MOTION** by Troy Felsman to approve the project specific agreement and funding and maintenance agreement with the Montana Department of Transportation for the Round Butte Road Pedestrian Path. Seconded by Charmel Gillin. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

**Dan Decker**, **John Harrison**, **Stu Levit**, **John Carter**, and **Ryan Rusche**, Legal Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**Charmel Gillin** out of the room, due to not previously participating in the Sergeant at Arms interviews.

**James Steele, Jr.** out of the room, due to his father being a candidate.

**Council** met in **executive session** to conduct interviews for the Sergeant-at-Arms position. **Jan Gardipe**, Personnel Department, was present for interviews.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**MOTION** by Shelly Fyant to accept the results of the ballot. Seconded by Len TwoTeeth. Carried, unanimous (7 present – Charmel Gillin and James Steele, Jr. out of the room).

**James Steele, Jr.** returned to the meeting.

**Council** met in **executive session** to discuss a personnel matter. **Renee Joachim**, Personnel Department, was present for discussion.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**MOTION** by James Steele, Jr. to approve the salary for the Tribal Health Department Head. Seconded by Troy Felsman. Carried, unanimous (8 present – Charmel Gillin out of the room).

**Charmel Gillin** returned to the meeting.

**Council** met in **executive session** to discuss a personnel matter.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**Len TwoTeeth** will be attending the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council Meeting in Billings and wants to bring up the issue of tribal members getting turned over to collections for unpaid medical bills. **Anita Matt** would like a Tribal Health Department staff member assigned to assisting individuals with their medical bills.

**Leonard Gray** was contacted about elders needing wood. The program needs to have a stockpile of wood so people do not run out. **Vern Clairmont**, Financial Management, joined the discussion and reported on issues regarding the stockpile of wood at the Forestry compound. Vern will follow up and report back to council.

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

**David Schmid**, Deputy Regional Forester; **Tim Garcia**, and **Janea Joy**, Lolo National Forest Supervisor; gave an update on the Northern Region Forest Service Agency. **Tom McDonald**, **Pablo “Chib” Espinoza** and **Brandon**

**Couture**, Natural Resources Department; **Kyle Felsman** and **Michael Durglo**, Preservation Office; **Shane Morigeau** and **John Harrison**, Tribal Legal Department; **Carolee Wenderoth**, Tribal Lands Department; and **Clayton Matt**, Tribal Services; were present for discussion.

**Arlene Templer**, Department of Human Resources Development, requested approval of a modification to John Dibattista's contract to increase compensation by \$12,000 to provide additional call-in sessions. John began to work with DHRD in April 2017 with a comprehensive teambuilding and intellectual development program. This program has been geared towards reunifying the departments after Tribal Social Services and DHRD were combined as one department. The program that John has utilized is an intellectual rationale thought process approach to teambuilding and personal growth. The process has employees participating in self-reflection and learning to work with different personality types in the work environment. In addition, the training has challenged individuals to work as a team and overcome obstacles in their work. The training has encouraged professional growth as well as emphasizes the need to build healthy relationships. The main course work is based off of the book "Play to Win" by Larry Wilson. This book addresses an individual's mindset and how to change one's thought processes to be more positive and have a positive impact on one's life and relationships. The material that is being covered is meant to be utilized not just in the work place, but in the other relationships in our lives as well. **Charmel Gillin** asked about the Indian Preference list not being used.

**MOTION** by Troy Felsman to approve the modification to John Dibattista's consultant contract to increase compensation by \$12,000 to provide additional sessions. Seconded by Carole Lankford. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

**James Steele, Jr.** stated FDPIR in Reno, NV in June. There is a consultation session with Snap in April. Tribal Leaders were talking about the boxed foods that President Trump could be economic.

**Arlene Templer** and **Carmelita Matt**, Department of Human Resources Development, and **Casey Family Program**; gave an update on the Casey Family Program and Foster Care in Montana.

**Council** discussed personnel issues.

**MOTION** by Troy Felsman to approve the Forestry Department Head position description. Seconded by James Steele, Jr. Carried, 8 for; 1 abstention (Len TwoTeeth).

**MOTION** by Shelly Fyant to advertise the Forestry Department

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Head position for 30 days. Seconded by Charmel Gillin. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

**Vern Clairmont**, Office Financial Management, discussed the succession plan for his position.

**MOTION** by Len TwoTeeth to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

Council **adjourned** at 3:41 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Thursday, February 22, 2018, at 9:00 a.m.

**CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES**

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Troy Felsman  
Tribal Secretary