

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

Volume 20 Number 78
Zoom Meeting

Held: August 4, 2020
Approved: August 6, 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 9:02 a.m. Quorum established.

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

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for July 30, 2020 were presented for approval.

MOTION by Len TwoTeeth to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for July 30, 2020, with corrections. Seconded by Ellie Bundy McLeod. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

MOTION by Anita Matt to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

Mark Couture, Tribal Lands Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session**. **Chuck Reese**, Information Technologies, was present for discussion.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to enter into a contract with International Tower, LLC to do an audit of the existing Jette Tower site. Seconded by Ellie Bundy McLeod. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

Tony Incashola, Jr. and **Ron Swaney**, Division of Fire; and **Benji Hegg**, Incident

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Commander Trainee; gave a fire update. The Magpie fire has 300 personnel and hot shot crews working multiple shifts. Division of Fire is getting comfortable with the containment lines. There have been multiple starts on the reservation, including Bird Island. The State of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks owns Bird Island. The fire is 30 acres in size and is in a bird sanctuary. Bird Island is heavily forested with a lot of snags. There probably has not been a fire there for at least 100 years, which adds to the firefighter safety concerns. The crews have nowhere to go but in the water in case of danger. The medical response would be difficult in case of an injury. If they cannot cut off the fire, they talked to Fish, Wildlife & Parks about letting it burn. The best ecological decision would be to let it burn. It would also be the most cost effective and safest option. They are assessing it to come up with a decision. They are looking for an area to cut it off. It is burning on the north end and crews are trying to do a line on the south end and hold that position. Investigators were unable to find a campfire. The cause of the fire remains under investigation. They talked to the Natural Resources Department and Tribal Forestry personnel about letting the natural fire take place. If crews can cut it off in a safe place, they will do that; if not, the island needs the burn. **Bing Matt** asked if the Regional Office was contacted to bring in crews. He heard they are supposed to be contacted after a fire gets over 1,000 acres. Bing thought a type 2 team would come in after 1,000 acres, but they put in a type 3 team, so he did not know if the qualifications were met after that thousand acres come about. **Ron Swaney** advised that Bodie Shaw from the Regional Office is the signatory and Division of Fire has been in contact with him and sent him their plans. DOF has several resources assigned to the Magpie fire and has supplies and equipment available for initial attack. **Benji Hegg** has been working under Bob McCrea as the Incident Commander Trainee for the last week. They saw substantial fire growth and multiple lines were identified. They had two successful burnouts. They brought the fire to Highway 200. There were also successful burnouts at Revais Creek and East Magpie. The fire is now 3,500 acres in size and is 62% contained. The north end of the fire is contained. Lower portions are contained and for the rest of fire they have containment lines all the way around. The containment will be increased within the next week or so. They have a strong organization and support from the base. There is a total of 300+ personnel, including the support personnel providing meals to the crews. Another system is going to come in this weekend. If they get through the wind, they will be in good shape. Widely spread thunderstorms are predicted. Benji is grateful for the community support. Some people honk as they drive by the crews and people have stopped on the highway to ask them if they need anything. **Anita Matt** thanked the crews for attending the town meeting in Dixon yesterday. About 20 people were in attendance and they appreciated the fire update. **Bing Matt** wanted to make sure we had enough resources in case of other fires. **Ron Swaney** reported that there was a fire in Arlee. It seems there has been a new fire per day, so the crews are very busy. One gal was hit by a tree branch and got a minor concussion. She was transported to the Ronan Hospital and was treated and released. There was also one minor fender bender.

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Other than that, they have had no other issues. Division of Fire is fully staffed. Jim Steele is providing the safety message and applying his leadership, Tony Harwood is working on fire behavior, and Rod Couture does the logistics. The COVID team gave a presentation and did a screening in the staging area. Every local resource for the type of equipment the Division of Fire needs is on the fire and the Indian Preference policy was followed. The crews are not allowed to share a vehicle, due to COVID-19.

Jean Matt, Mark Clary, Dale Nelson, and Rob McDonald, Unified Command Team gave an update. Jean Matt anticipates an increase in fires and the ability to support the fires. He was happy to hear that the Tribal Health Department is taking temperatures of the fire crews. It is difficult to manage multiple emergencies and he applauds the Division of Fire for their work. With upcoming fires as we get more fires, there are more concerns. The COVID outbreak could happen at those camps, so he is happy to hear that Jim Steele is there to provide education. If there is a COVID incident at the fire camp, it could cause a big concern for future fires. Preventative maintenance and communication are an important aspect of this. **Mark Clary** gave kudos to the Division of Fire. They are an outstanding resource for us in our area. Mark was impressed how quickly the crews responded to the Horseshoe fire. The fire was 140 acres, and the initial attack was outstanding. The Rural Fire Departments have a good working relationship with the Division of Fire, and they are there to back up the crews if needed. Lake County has a total of 166 coronavirus cases. We are beginning to see a decline in the number of new cases. That is because people are staying home and wearing masks while in public and not attending public events.

Jean Matt commented that this decline does not lessen the importance of education and being diligent. Jean was appreciative of the masks that Dale Nelson provided to Mission Valley Power. **Dale Nelson** provided the masks to Mission Valley Power and he is contacting the schools to identify what their needs are. **Jean Matt** is keeping an eye on PPE supplies for when the CSKT returns to work on August 10. Many athletic sports are beginning practices next week. The team is preparing for the next phase of opening. **Rob McDonald** commented that the transition is having an impact on communications with fire season kicking up and schools getting more clear in their plans. The Polson School Board will open the school on a part-time and staggered schedule. There is a lot of activity going on. Looking at the numbers, it looks like we have plateaued. We are not increasing numbers each week and he hopes that trend continues. He is still pushing the message to wear a mask. The team is looking at new ways to get that message out.

Chairwoman Fyant announced that the CSKT is preparing to go back to work on August 10. The Tribal Council is keeping a close eye on the schools and Head Start and all of the places our kids will be. They are also looking at the workforce aspect of it for those employees that might need a telework agreement due to

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health conditions or childcare issues. Council is working to get all that in place. **Martin Charlo** commented what he wants to see more of is people working on their mental health. He heard of the quarantine 15 and he told the membership to not let that be them. People need to be active and get outside and enjoy the nice weather. **Mark Clary** discussed the issue with public schools being the bussing aspect. The transportation directors will have to try to maintain social distancing on the school busses, which means multiple routes on the same routes, with a limited number of children on the bus at one time.

Carole Lankford spoke to two people that had recovered from COVID, and they are still feeling the effects of the virus. She is concerned about the lasting effects of the virus, and we need to keep that in mind with our children. **Anita Matt** watched the national news, and we are seeing about 40,000+ new cases a day. She wonders if people are taking it seriously and that is what is scary. Some take it seriously, but there are others out in the public that do not take it seriously. There were people running around in public that knew they had COVID-19, and that is very disrespectful. She encourages everyone to be careful.

Shannon Clairmont and **Art Soukkala**, Natural Resources Department, drew the names for permits for the Ferry Basin and Little Money Wildlife Management Units. 30 names were drawn for bull elk hunting permits in the Ferry Basin Wildlife Management Unit, and 6 names were drawn for bighorn sheep ram and 4 bighorn sheep ewe hunting permits in the Little Money Wildlife Management Unit. There are approximately 1,100 elk in Ferry Basin. There has been some wolf activity in the area, but it has not affected the elk numbers. Names drawn for ram permits: Darrell J. Whitworth, Joseph O. Santos, Jr., Shannon M. Sheridan, Jeremiah I. Morigeau, Whitney E. Malatare, and Cody J. Couture. Names drawn for ewe permits: Naida R. Lefthand, Doran M. DuMont, Travis M. Dupuis, and Delphine T. Chiefstick. Names drawn for bull elk permits: Kermit J. Clary, Gregory C. Clairmont, Richard A. Inmee, Darrell J. Whitworth, Phillip J. Malatare, Elmer C. LaDue, III, Heather R. Torosian-Craig, Albert L. Hitchcock, Gary T. Stiner, Courtney E. Mays, Donald F. Stanger, Brandon T. Couture, Randy P. Finley, Carla F. Linsebigler, Fred W. Webster, Jamie M. Courville, William B. Michel, Bonnie L. Hewankorn, Michel A. Torosian, Darcy J. Maiers, Cedric C. Earthboy, Gregory D. Smith, Jon C. Denton, Nancy R. Grant, Nikko T. Alexander, Matthew W.L. Linsebigler, Levi G. Hewankorn, Leslie D. Trahan, Shelly J. Salois-Nimrick, and Christopher D. Clairmont.

Shannon Clairmont and **Whisper Camel Means**, Natural Resources Department, requested approval to submit a grant proposal for funding in the amount of \$27,865.00 for enhanced Chronic Wasting Disease from the USDA Animal and Plant Inspection Services. Libby is a hotspot for Chronic Wasting Disease. The north end of the reservation is the area that they will be concentrating on. Indirect costs are available for this grant. **Len TwoTeeth** asked what the plan of action is if Chronic Wasting Disease is detected on the

reservation. Whisper advised that the department would work cooperatively with the state of Montana. The CSKT does not have a plan of action in place at this time. The CSKT will be writing a prevention and action plan.

MOTION by Anita Matt to approve the submittal of a grant proposal for funding for enhanced Chronic Wasting Disease from the USDA Animal and Plant Inspection Services. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

Gregory Wilson, Natural Resources Department, requested approval of a modification to the employment agreement with Trevor Bras to extend the term to August 28, 2023. When Trevor was initially hired, the position was advertised for 4 months and he was the only qualified applicant. Greg contacted the Tribal Education Department to find out if there are any tribal members pursuing this type of education and there is one tribal member in the first year of education. It takes 3 to 4 years to obtain the degree that is required.

MOTION by Bing Matt to approve the modification to the employment agreement with Trevor Bras to extend the term to August 28, 2023. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

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

Rick Eneas and **Ruth Swaney**, Financial Management, requested approval of modification 13 to the fiscal year 2020 Bureau of Indian Affairs Self-Governance Compact Budget. Earmarked fiscal year 2020 funding for Community Services Block Grants, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Native Employment Works, and Timber Harvest Initiative has been awarded and needs to be allocated to the budget.

MOTION by Anita Matt to approve by resolution modification 13 to the fiscal year 2020 Bureau of Indian Affairs Self-Governance Compact Budget. Seconded by Ellie Bundy McLeod. Carried, 10 for; 0 opposed; 0 not voting.

RESOLUTION 20-138

RESOLUTION APPROVING MODIFICATION 13 TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2020 BIA SELF-GOVERNANCE COMPACT BUDGET

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

WHEREAS, earmarked FY 2020 funding for Community Services Block Grants, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Native Employment Works, and

Timber Harvest Initiative has been awarded and needs to be allocated to the budget; and

WHEREAS, the budget will be allocated as follows:

Programs, Functions, Services, and Activities	Budget Account	Current FY 2020 Budget Authority	Increase/ (Decrease)	Revised FY 2020 Budget Authority
DHRD 477 Program	13-502-4770	6,949,368.06	109,356	7,058,724.06
Timber Harvest Initiative	13-510-4545	342,604.06	250,000	592,604.06
Total			359,356	

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes to modify the FY 2020 BIA Self-Governance Compact Budget as reflected above; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the FY 2020 BIA Self-Governance Compact Budget is increased from \$49,037,992.49 to \$49,397,348.49; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that prior years' unexpended funds are available to appropriate for budget expenditures pending final obligation of funds.

Rick Eneas and **Ruth Swaney**, Financial Management, requested approval of the fiscal year 2021-2025 Indian Health Service multiyear funding agreement.

MOTION by Charmel Gillin to approve by resolution the fiscal year 2021-2025 Indian Health Service multiyear funding agreement. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, 10 for; 0 opposed; 0 not voting.

RESOLUTION 20-139

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE A SELF-GOVERNANCE FUNDING AGREEMENT FOR FISCAL YEARS 2021 THROUGH 2025 WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

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

WHEREAS, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have entered into a Self-Governance Compact with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Indian Health Service; and

WHEREAS, the Self-Governance Compact requires that a Funding Agreement be negotiated, approved, and incorporated into the Compact by attachment; and

WHEREAS, the Tribes have negotiated the Fiscal Years 2021-2025 Multi-Year Funding Agreement which includes all functions previously compacted; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes that the Fiscal Years 2021-2025 Multi-Year Funding Agreement, as negotiated, is hereby approved and incorporated in the Self-Governance Compact as Attachment B-20; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CSKT Office of Financial Management is authorized to transmit the Fiscal Years 2021-2025 Multi-Year Funding Agreement to the Director of the Indian Health Service for approval and final signature; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CSKT Office of Financial Management is delegated authority to revise the Fiscal Years 2021-2025 Multi-Year Funding Agreement as necessary, prior to signature by the Director of the Indian Health Service, as requested by the Indian Health Service and agreed to by the CSKT.

Chairwoman Fyant reminded the membership to social distance, wear a mask, and wash their hands. She encouraged everyone to get outside and enjoy the nice weather.

Anita Matt reminded everyone to be careful with fire and be sure to carry a shovel and bucket when they are camping and recreating.

Chairwoman Fyant reminded the membership to fill out the 2020 Census. The census can be completed online at www.census.gov. Rob McDonald is leading up the census efforts for CSKT and Lailani Uphan is working on the census as the CSKT Coordinator.

Patricia Courchane and **Traci Couture**, Department of Human Resources Development, requested approval to send out a public letter announcing the closure of the Senior Centers for any and all type of gatherings, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The weekly senior meals will continue to be provided. DHRD requested approval to send out a public letter announcing the cancellation of the annual 2020 Summer Youth Employment Program, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Summer Youth Employment Program will be done in a different way than usual. It is a pilot project they are doing. Other tribes are doing it the same way in an effort to protect the youth.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to authorize the Department of Human

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Resources Development to send out a public letter announcing the closure of the Senior Centers for any type of gatherings, due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and authorize the Department of Human Resources Development to send out a public letter announcing the cancellation of the 2020 Summer Youth Employment Program, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Seconded by Carole Lankford. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

Chairwoman Fyant asked DHRD about a request she got from Contracts & Grants to sign a letter of cancellation for the Victim Services grant from the Department of Justice for Victims of Crime. The Department of Justice is officially asking the CSKT to voluntarily terminate the grant award. There has not been any grant activity during the term of the grant. **Patricia Courchane** explained that the department was 1.5 years into the grant when she was hired. No budget was ever approved and then we went into the freeze. DHRD worked with the grant officer to get a budget approved. There were arguments about the indirect cost rates. There were multiple problems with this grant. The Tribes would need to build and set up the Advocacy Center, but we would never own it even though we put all the infrastructure into it. The issues have never been resolved. Patricia spoke to Clayton Matt about it and they elected to turn it back to the Department of Justice. That is why Patricia sent a letter requesting to do that. We would be required to find a building, modify it, and set it up to interview children, but then we would never own it. There was no money in the grant to purchase infrastructure.

Bing Matt asked what the LIHEAP funding looked like this year. **Patricia Courchane** responded that DHRD took some of the COVID funding and got summer air conditioning for elders. DHRD usually does not do that, but many elders needed that service due to the heat wave. Anyone referred to the program by Tribal Council has received LIHEAP services.

Bing Matt received a call from someone in Arlee regarding the Assisted Living Center building located next to the Head Start. The air conditioning has been out for several years and they are miserable in the facility due to the hot weather. Bing asked if DHRD could loan them any air conditioning units to put in the rooms to keep them cool. Salish Kootenai Housing Authority owns the Assisted Living Center building. **Patricia Courchane** will follow up and report back.

Rhonda Swaney and **Brian Upton**, Legal Department, requested approval of a memorandum of understanding with the Montana Highway Patrol, Department of Justice and Anderson Broadcasting for radio equipment replacement on Jette Tower that CSKT built with the Montana Department of Emergency Services in 2006 using federal Homeland Security funding. The sublease with Anderson Broadcasting expired in 2016 and those lease renewal negotiations have not occurred yet. This MOU allows the Montana Highway Patrol to access property to replace its radio equipment.

MOTION by Ellie Bundy McLeod to approve the memorandum of understanding with the Montana Highway Patrol, Department of Justice and Anderson Broadcasting for radio equipment replacement on Jette Tower that the CSKT built in 2006. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

Rhonda Swaney, Stu Levit and Chelsea Colwyn, Legal Department; **Mike Durglo**, Preservation Office; informed council that the Forest Service is doing updates to its regulations on oil and gas management of Forest Service and national grasslands so it can conform to the Trump administration's energy dominance agenda. Options discussed were: (1) send a letter to the national level from the Tribal Council; (2) send a letter to the Regional or National Forest Service from the staff level; or (3) do nothing. Mike commented that this could potentially impact Forest Service lands in which we have numerous cultural resource sites. We also hunt, gather and fish in those areas. An inventory will be done on the artifacts in the near future. Mike wants to contact the Regional Forest Service folks for a meeting. **Chairwoman Fyant** recommended sending a letter to the regional level by the staff. The Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council will be bringing up this issue at their next meeting. **Mike Durglo** suggested that we engage Tony Incashola, Sr., Tony Incashola, Jr., Vernon Finley, and Rich Janssen.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to send a letter to the regional level by the tribal staff, with consultation with the Culture Committees and Forestry, if needed. Seconded by Fred Matt. Carried, 9 for; 1 opposed (Len TwoTeeth).

Rhonda Swaney and Jordan Thompson, Legal Department, requested approval of a contract with Kanji and Katzen, PLLC, to provide professional services to assist the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes in writing a food security assessment and in the preparation of the Tribes' roundtable discussion regarding food security.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to approve by resolution a contract with Kanji and Katzen, PLLC. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, 10 for; 0 opposed; 0 not voting.

RESOLUTION 20-140

A RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR CONSULTATION AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES WITH KANJI & KATZEN P.L.L.C.

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

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WHEREAS, the Tribal Council, as primary governing body of the Flathead Nation, is entrusted with the responsibility to protect and preserve Tribal property, wildlife and natural resources, and to protect the health, security and general welfare of the Tribes, and

WHEREAS, protection and preservation of property, wildlife, natural resources, health, security, and general welfare of the Tribes are among the highest priorities of the Tribes, and

WHEREAS, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes wish to secure, and Kanji & Katzen, PLLC, wishes to provide professional services to assist the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes in writing a food security assessment and in the preparation of the Tribes' roundtable discussion regarding food security; and

WHEREAS, Kanji & Katzen, PLLC, has proven research and writing abilities, can provide fast and efficient turnaround time, and has successfully worked with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes on numerous projects; and

WHEREAS, Kanji & Katzen, PLLC, has agreed to provide their professional services according to the terms and conditions of a contract for consultation and professional services.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Tribal Council approves said agreement and authorizes its execution by the Chairwoman and the Tribal Secretary.

Rhonda Swaney and **Chelsea Colwyn**, Legal Department, requested approval of a modification to the contract with HRA to do research on land ownership status of the railroad right-of-way. Sprint offered to pay \$104,000 for a 25-year renewal of the right-of-way. The 1988 agreement with Sprint expired in 2018.

MOTION by Charmel Gillin to approve the modification to the contract with HRA to do research on land ownership status of the railroad right-of-way. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

Rhonda Swaney, Stu Levit, Chelsea Colwyn, Brian Upton, Michael Wheeler, Jordan Thompson, Mary Price, and **Ryan Rusche**, Legal Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

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

Len TwoTeeth and **Fred Matt** out of the room.

Council met in **executive session** to conduct an interview for the Tribal Health Department Director position. **Melanie Piedalue**, Personnel Department, was present for the interview.

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

Len TwoTeeth returned to the meeting.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Fred Matt returned to the meeting.

Daliyah Killsback, Montana Budget and Policy Center, discussed the CSKT's policy priorities for the 2021 state legislative session. The novel coronavirus pandemic lays bare deep inequities across Montana. Due to a long history of racist public policies, ongoing settler colonialism, and underinvestment, Montanans who are American Indian disproportionately experience underlying health conditions and economic challenges that heighten the risk of the pandemic. That same history continues today by denying tribal nations the resources needed to respond to and recover from emergencies of this scale. Given the impact of the pandemic and the federal government's chronic underfunding of Indian Country, the \$8 billion in tribal funding provisions included in the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act is not enough. Tribal nations are underfunded and overextended but continue to take steps that prioritize the health and well-being of communities. The Blackfeet Nation maintains its COVID-19 ordinance that includes the closure of entrances to Glacier National Park located within the reservation. On May 13, the Crow Tribe of Indians extended its emergency orders to June 15 and helped coordinate COVID-19 testing available to all residents of Big Horn County. However, they could do more with additional resources. The State must act on its opportunities to effect change in Indian Country. Montana has a tremendous opportunity to create the change the state has always needed. Without action, the coronavirus could take a serious toll on Indian Country and Montana. COVID-19 could disproportionately impact American Indian health. The novel coronavirus and COVID-19, the disease the virus causes, present serious public health concerns for Indian Country. This is no coincidence. Because of racist public policies and ongoing settler colonialism, indigenous peoples across the United States experience disproportionate underlying health conditions and economic challenges, circumstances that heighten the risk and severity of the virus. While the number of confirmed cases on reservations in Montana is low, an outbreak could be severe. The novel coronavirus pandemic highlights inequities that present us with opportunities to emerge as a state where all Montanans can thrive. Many of the issues Indian Country faces today are the result of discriminatory policies that non-tribal governments enacted that continue to deny tribal communities access to resources and opportunity. Daliyah gave an

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overview of legislative activity from the 2019 legislature and discussed the 2020 State – Tribal legislative impacts. While the federal budget plays a significant role in relieving poverty, promoting health, and building economic opportunity in Indian Country, the state budget also has a substantial impact on the lives of American Indians living on- and off-reservation in Montana. Through the state budget, the Montana Legislature identifies, prioritizes, and funds the public services we all rely on for our safety, prosperity, and stability. The 2019 Montana Legislature considered a number of bills that directly impact American Indians. In the interim, the State-Tribal Relations Committee acts as a liaison with tribal governments, encourages intergovernmental cooperation, conducts interim studies as assigned, may propose legislation for subsequent legislatures, and reports its activities, findings, and recommendations to the Legislature. **Chairwoman Fyant** commented that the City of Polson is considering a resort tax and has not consulted with the Tribes about it. Shelly has attended the training Montana Budget & Policy Center offers. **Jordan Thompson**, Legal Department, commented that it is nice to have the support from the Montana Budget & Policy Center during the legislative session. It would be helpful to discuss legislative priorities, and Jordan can prepare a council presentation for that.

Len TwoTeeth left the meeting.

Rick Eneas, Financial Management; **Jody Perez**, **Janet Camel**, and **Velda Shelby**, Homeless Task Force; **Bob Gauthier**, Gauthier Agency; discussed supportive housing. The task force met with Rick Eneas and John Neiss about different sites for the supportive housing project and some units for the homeless who are bunking with relatives and potentially exposing elders to COVID and living in overcrowded conditions. A matrix was developed for the 9 sites they considered, along with the pros and cons of each site. (1) Transitional Living Center. Rick did not think they could justify purchasing that from ourselves and there are only three vacant units there. (2) Old Forestry Building. It is unlikely it can be rehabbed by the December 30, 2020 deadline. (3) KHJCC. An engineering assessment needs to be done on the water and sewer. It is unknown if that can be done by the December 30, 2020 deadline. Janet shared a memo from Bob Gauthier summarizing the fieldtrip yesterday to KHJCC. The dorms are in usable condition. (4) Former Fangsrud property. The infrastructure could not be built by the December 30, 2020 deadline. We do not have time to start from scratch on infrastructure design and construction. (5) Luedtke Apartments. There are too many issues with evicting the tenants. (6) Grizzly Bear Homesites. The homesites are located on Clairmont Road in Pablo. 9 lots are available. We could install water and sewer (already designed) and buy modular homes to put on the lots. (7) Maggie Ashley Trailer Park. The trailer park is located in Pablo and has 36 vacant lots. SKHA wants to use the lots to charge rent and get revenue and prefers not to use those lots. (8) Vacant property in Pablo. There is some vacant land located by the Northwood Trailer Park in Pablo. It is small,

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in fee, no known infrastructure, and may have covenants. (9) Property in Ronan. There is a trailer lot located next to the Luedtke apartments in Ronan. That would create problems evicting people. (10) Explore whether there is a motel on the Reservation for sale. More information would be needed. It is not feasible with the time constraints. (11) Black Bear Ranch – One Heart. It is too remote and not near services or stores. It may be better for treatment or after treatment center. The task force requested permission to proceed with the two sites identified (KHJCC and Grizzly Bear Homesites). They can follow the procurement policy or come back with a proposal from a firm that can get it done by the deadline. The task force would need permission to rehab the KHJCC dorms, look at three vacant sites, and look at infrastructure for the Grizzly Bear Homesites. **Martin Charlo** would like them to also look at some of the buildings that are condemned. **Janet Camel** discussed security issues at the KHJCC site. The doors to the dorm could be secured with one entrance for visitors. There could be a security system in place. Outpatient treatment and counseling, activities for children, and cooking classes would be provided. The carpentry building could be updated to provide building trades training. They would provide as many services as they can onsite. **Anita Matt** commented on the discussion regarding purchasing trailers for the Grizzly Bear Homesites. She had the understanding that this would be for temporary housing services only. **Rick Eneas** discussed the status of the KHJCC property. One of the biggest issues there is they were designed very poorly to where pipes broke every year due to the way they were plumbed. The maintenance cost for KHJCC was incredibly high in the winter months. Cost containment will be a challenge for the task force. The reason for the recommendation to demo those structures was because it would cost more to rehab the structures than it would be to demo them and rebuild.

MOTION by Anita Matt to take the recommendations of the committee to move forward. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (9 present – Len TwoTeeth out of the room).

Council met in **executive session** to discuss personnel matters.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

MOTION by Anita Matt to adjourn the meeting.

Council **adjourned** at 4:44 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Thursday, August 6, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Ellie Bundy McLeod
Tribal Secretary