

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

Volume 20 Number 35  
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: February 6, 2020  
Approved: February 13, 2020

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Shelly Fyant, Chairwoman; Anita Matt, Vice-Chairwoman; Martin Charlo, Treasurer; Mike Dolson; Carole Lankford; James “Bing” Matt; and Charmel Gillin.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ellie Bundy McLeod, Secretary (Missing Indigenous Persons Task Force); Fred Matt (Inter-Tribal Timber Council Meeting – Portland, Oregon); and Len TwoTeeth (Personal Time Off).

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jami Pluff, Policy Analyst; Tom Johnson, Council Support; James Steele, Sr., Sergeant at Arms; and Abby Dupuis, Recording Secretary.

The meeting was called to **order** at 9:05 a.m. Quorum established.

The meeting was opened with a **prayer** by Martin Charlo.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for January 30, 2020 were presented for approval. **Chairwoman Fyant** informed council that she has a draft letter in the council packet regarding Brian Lipscomb’s request to no longer be involved with the Indian Country Energy and Infrastructure Working Group. The letter will be addressed today. **Carole Lankford** informed council that a young man went to the elders meeting yesterday and talked to her about doing some pro bono work. He will be going to law school after he completes his education at Salish Kootenai College. He is a nontribal member, but he is willing to do it.

**MOTION** by Carole Lankford to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for January 30, 2020, with corrections. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, unanimous (7 present).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

**MOTION** by Charmel Gillin to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, unanimous (7 present).

**Dusty Finley**, Tribal Member, discussed complaints he has with the Tribal Health Department and the Department of Human Resources Development

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Transportation program. Every time he calls for transportation needs, he gets a voicemail. Dusty commented that it is very frustrating and he feels like he is getting the run around. Dusty has been calling the Tribal Health employee for a month in an attempt to get some travel vouchers, and he has been told the employee is on personal time off. He is looking for some help to get him through the next couple of months until his Social Security comes through. Dusty wants to know who to contact to get the assistance that he needs. **Charmel Gillin** told Dusty that the tribal council went through orientation with Tribal Health yesterday. The employee that Dusty is referring to has not been involved in some of the meetings and is unaware of some of the issues. **Carole Lankford** explained that the Tribal Health employee needs some proper back up. Carole was unaware that gas vouchers are available to people because transportation is provided by the Tribal Health Department or the Department of Human Resources Development Transit program. Mr. Finley needs to contact the chairwoman or any one of the council members when he has issues happening. Dusty has had problems using the transportation programs and he has not scheduled any of his upcoming medical appointments with DHRD. He is required to provide at least two days' notice to have transportation provided, and he does not know when his appointments are. Charmel explained that the THIP program provides gas vouchers and that is not the employee's program that Dusty is referring to. **Corky Sias**, Transit Program, explained that there is a 48-hour notice required for off-reservation transportation and a 24-hour notice for any on-reservation transportation. **Chairwoman Fyant** asked Mr. Finley to work with DHRD to get his next three medical appointments on the transit schedule. The Transit program has a memorandum of understanding with Tribal Health, and that is the first priority option.

**Michael Tenas**, Tribal Employee, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss a personal matter. **Corky Sias**, Department of Human Resources Development; **Maggie Bentley** and **Cory Clairmont**, Personnel Department; were present for discussion.

**Leonard Michel**, Tribal Member, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss a personal matter.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**MOTION** by Carole Lankford to extend employment for two weeks for Michael Tenas, due to gathering more information. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (7 present).

**Thomas "Sonny" Lozeau**, Tribal Member, discussed his request to receive a copy of the eligible voters list. Sonny wants to use that information to verify the eligible voters. When an individual signs his petition, he would highlight it in his book. Mr. Lozeau discussed the ordinance amendment not being ratified by

the membership in accordance with the “real” constitution. Sonny will wait to obtain the voter list until this is clarified. **Rhonda Swaney**, Legal Department, advised that the constitution allows the tribal council to approve ordinances regarding elections and voter age requirements. That is what the ordinance amendment was for. **Sonny Lozeau** discussed Public Law 280. Mr. Lozeau had reached out to Charmel but has not heard back from her. He asked how does this go when there is nobody that signed the memorandum of agreement from Senate Bill 368, which allowed for the retrocession of misdemeanor jurisdiction to the Tribes. **Charmel Gillin** apologized if Sonny thought she did not appropriately respond to him, but her response was that the tribal council had asked the Tribal Legal Department to look into all the issues he raised with Public Law 280. That has been an ongoing effort to answer all of his questions about that. **Rhonda Swaney** advised that she would do some additional research on the documents he is referring to. As long as state law is in effect, they do not need to sign an agreement. If he has a specific complaint about a specific case, she can look into that, as well. Sonny gave an overview of Ordinance 40-A (revised) and brought up examples of some court cases. He continued discussing the constitution amendments regarding the voters list. Sonny commented on his opposition to the water compact.

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

**Tom McDonald**, Natural Resources Department, discussed a summer work experience youth crew proposal. The National Forest Foundation is interested in entering into a memorandum of agreement to fund a youth work experience program for high school or college-aged youth to be utilized by the CSKT and Flathead National Forest. Tom recommended including the Tribal Education Department in this process. There is a meeting on February 24 to discuss further. They may try to get Tim Ryan to be the worksite supervisor and get it set up through the college so students could earn a college credit for this work. **Chairwoman Fyant** thought this would be a good opportunity for the youth to get reconnected to the land and do some trail work. It was the **consensus** of council to pursue the program.

**Council** met in **executive session**.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**Vern Clairmont, Kevin Howlett, Dr. Corum, Dr. Garry Pitts, and Yolanda Page**, Tribal Health Advisory Committee, provided an update on the bylaws and the establishment of a health board. The advisory committee was established through the end of March to get these tasks accomplished. December 19 was the last time the committee briefed council on their progress. The committee has been going through the organic documents to allow the organization to oversee the health facilities under the tribal council. That would get the tribal

council out of the day-to-day operations of the health program. The committee is working on the articles of organization or articles of incorporation, whichever way the council wants it set up (a department, an LLC or a corporation). **Chairwoman Fyant** questioned funding and asked how the Tribes are going to stay eligible for 638 funding and grants. The committee had asked legal counsel to look into a federally qualified health facility. **Lana Page** asked who the council wants her to submit her research to. She has been researching the various types of structure options. The designation will need to be approved by resolution. She needs to know who is choosing which type of organization this will be. Lana talked about reimbursements and asked about offering services to non-eligible beneficiaries. **Kevin Howlett** clarified that the committee has not had any discussions on offering services to non-eligible beneficiaries, so that is not an issue. **Charmel Gillin** thought it would be important for the council to know what the implications are for each of these decisions. **Vern Clairmont** commented that each option will have some pros and cons, and it will be a decision for the tribal council. The committee has asked Lana to research each option so a recommendation can be provided to the council when making the decision on how to proceed.

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

**Michelle Mitchell**, Tribal Education Department, informed council that the Tribal Education Department has been meeting with the Missoula County Public School District. They are working together on strengthening the relationship with the school and collaborating on projects. **Glenda Weasel** and **Melissa Hammett**, Title VI Native American Specialists; **Karen Allen**, Region 3 Executive Director/Indian Education Department Supervisor; **Dr. Rob Watson**, Superintendent; **Ray Kingfisher**, **Lewis YellowRobe** and **Dacia Griego**, Native American Specialists; gave a report on the Title VI grant for the Missoula County Public School District. The Indian Education Department's mission is to help Native American students achieve academically, culturally, and socially to graduate and become successful lifelong learners. In order to receive grant funding, the school was originally required to collaborate with the Tribes and provide annual reports to the tribal council, but over the years it has become an integral part of the school system. The School District hosted a cultural sensitivity training for all of the school district's staff (70+ staff) and it went very well. The school implemented the *Read Along* program as part of the Education For All. Lewis reads the students books by Native American authors, and he is involved with the Sunday Fun Day. The staff visits with the Native American students during lunch break and do activities with them. The group facilitates monthly events to bring families together. The calendar of events included a Native American Heritage Week welcome back community event, Halloween Carnival Round Dance, blitz run, Winter Gathering Mini Pow Wow, Sweet Heart Round Dance, Native Youth Pow Wow, Title VI Public Hearing, Graduating Senior Dinner, and an end-of-the-year gathering. The Missoula Urban Indian Health

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Center has been a partner and will hold a class to talk to the youth and families about the importance of not smoking. The Indian Parent Committee will be holding an Indian taco sale at the Sweet Heart Round Dance, and the tribal council was invited to go to the event. There will be a Native American Fashion Show that will showcase Native American artists. Honoring the Native American Seniors and Senior Dinner event will take place at the Double Tree on May 16, 2020. The students are provided a free dinner, gifts, and an eagle feather. All of the Missoula School principals, the superintendent, and administrative staff attend the senior event. The Parent Advisory Committee holds fundraising events all year long to pay for the event. There will be an end-of-the-year raffle for star quilts, Pendleton blankets, and hopefully Guns N' Roses concert tickets. Glenda provided a report on how the staff addressed the Title VI Objectives for 2018-2019 and their goals for 2019-2020. A goal of theirs this year is to have tribal flags in all 17 of the Missoula County Public Schools. They currently have tribal flags in 12 of their schools. **Carole Lankford** was impressed with what this group has been doing, especially making an impact on what non-Indians learn about Native Americans and their approach on all of the events they hold. Glenda requested a donation from the Tribes for the Youth Pow Wow. **Chairwoman Fyant** explained that there is a donation request form that must be filled out, and then it is reviewed by the Donation Committee. If the school needs additional tribal flags, they just need to make the request to council.

**MOTION** by Carole Lankford to adjourn the meeting.

Council **adjourned** at 2:05 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, February 11, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.

**CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES**

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Ellie Bundy McLeod  
Tribal Secretary