

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

Volume 20 Number 37
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: February 13, 2020
Approved: February 20, 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: Jami Pluff, Council Support; Donna Durglo, Council Support; James Steele, Sr., Sergeant at Arms; and Abby Dupuis, Recording Secretary.

The meeting was called to **order** at 9:00 a.m. Quorum established.

The meeting was opened with a **prayer** by Ellie Bundy McLeod.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for February 6, 2020 were presented for approval.

MOTION by Charmel Gillin to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for February 6, 2020, with corrections. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, 6 for; 3 abstentions (Carole Lankford, Fred Matt and Ellie Bundy McLeod).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

MOTION by Anita Matt to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Ellie Bundy McLeod. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

Miranda Burland, Tribal Education Department, presented a request for a change of duty for Linda Ferris, Chairman of the Indian Education Parent Committee, to meet with a parent tomorrow.

MOTION by Charmel Gillin to grant Linda Ferris a change of duty, with supervisor approval, to meet with a parent tomorrow. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

Carole Lankford discussed a curriculum from the Ronan School District that was posted on Facebook that was about termination. Carole attended the Title VI meeting last night and this was a topic. Some of the students attended the meeting and they were overwhelmingly in favor of the teacher and what she was teaching. It was taken out of context on Facebook. It is a critical thinking method of teaching. Some of the teachers and administration spoke highly of this teacher. Molly Billedeaux talked about this method and how important it is for students to learn how to be able to talk about this tough issue. The teacher was commended for taking this on. In the future, the teachers need to understand the committee is there to help with these kinds of things. This may have been prevented if they had met with the Title VI committee and got the information out to the public. It turned into an ugly issue on Facebook. Everyone is on the same page. Mary Jane Charlo, Elders Committee, attended the meeting and she will provide a report on it to the elders. There is information in the council packet about the curriculum. Michelle Mitchell, Tribal Education Department, met with Jessica Johnson, the Indian Education Coordinator, and the principal and found out that the students were given a choice to receive this seminar in chunks. This is just the first part of it. The students had a voice on how this was going to be presented. It is unfortunate that it got out on Facebook. The school was willing to have that meeting with the parents and let everyone talk it out and present the other side. Michelle will be coming forward to council with a request to establish some volunteer committees. There was some good that came out of all this.

Len TwoTeeth joined the meeting.

Anita Matt mentioned that during the time she was on the Tribal Education Committee they discussed coordinating curriculum with each school. It would be good to refer this matter back to that committee. **Francine Antoine** attended the meeting last night. It sounded like Linda and the Indian Education have been discussing this curriculum for a long time because it had to be approved. The kids really love that teacher and she is a good teacher. Francine is raising kids and these resources are vital to the parents. There were some threats made, and those are being dealt with. The students were very good at how they represented themselves. **Carole Lankford** mentioned that they also talked about the young girl's mother that brought this up, and they want to make sure there is some protection for her. The school district expressed an understanding of how important it is that Indians are teaching Native American studies.

Ellie Bundy McLeod gave a travel report from the Missing & Murdered Indigenous Persons Task Force meeting in Billings on February 6 & 7. The Department of Justice provided an updated list of the missing indigenous persons from the Montana Missing Persons Clearinghouse database. There is a real-time list available online. Ernie Weyand, US Attorney General's Appointee; Gary Seder, Department of Justice; and Melissa Schlichting, United States

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Deputy Attorney General; discussed the roles they play in active missing persons cases. Task Force members provided updates on the community meetings each Task Force member was responsible for hosting. CSKT's meeting was held on January 15 at the Salish Kootenai College Theater and updates were provided on the missing and information provided on shared resources. This event was the largest community meeting and there were 73 verified attendees. Prior to that event, Ellie facilitated a meeting with Misty LaPlant, Montana Missing Persons Specialist; Tina Chamberlain, Task Force LINC Coordinator; Tribal Police; and Investigators. She also provided a presentation about CSKT's MMIP Work Group. All members attended a community event at MSU Billings that was hosted by the Task Force. Day two was spent reviewing and approving a LINC grant application received by Blackfoot Community College for the matching \$25,000 grant being offered to a tribal college willing to create a network in support of efforts by Montana tribes to identify, report, and find Native American persons who are missing. The grant program is administered by the Missing Indigenous Persons Task Force. The Task Force discussed findings and recommendations for submission to the state-tribal interim committee as part of our obligation under SB 312. **Chairwoman Fyant** was notified of consultations that are coming up. **Fred Matt** found out about a missing person from St. Ignatius and he wondered who he could check with to find out what has been done with that. Ellie thought the tribal police could provide an update and we could find out why that person is not on the missing list. Ellie will follow up on that. The Tribal Police met with council and provided an update and no further follow up is needed. **Charmel Gillin** asked Ellie as the Task Force representative to be sure to pursue funding for education and outreach through that Task Force position. **Carole Lankford** received a request from a Bigfork community member wanting to know what they could do, such as having posters with information and phone numbers in the bars and casinos. **Shelly Fyant** stated that the Missoula Task Force has posters but they are specific to Missoula. There is a group that provides education if the community wants it. The group is working on getting materials out to the public. **Jami Pluff** commented that they are specifically for human trafficking and sex trafficking, and she will follow up to get some more of those.

Fred Matt gave a trip report on the Inter-Tribal Timber Council meeting he attended. The organization has been in existence for about 34 years. It is a very successful organization that tribes have supported and the organization supports the tribes. There are three meetings per year and a national conference. The national conference is usually the first week of June and is hosted by a tribe. Fred had asked the tribal council and Tribal Forestry to consider hosting the national conference here, and they agreed to do that. There is a meeting in September after the national conference and at that meeting they go over the next year's national conference location and begin the planning process. Then in December there is the annual meeting in Portland. There was a meeting during the second week of February in Palm Springs. The committees go over

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information and details that are current and issues that need follow up. There are breakout sessions and the subcommittees work on specific topics. Fred has a packet of information if the council is interested in any of that information. The next national conference is the first week of June in Fairbanks, Alaska. The stumpage rates for pine are consistent with the regional and national trends. **Chairwoman Fyant** reported that they had reached out to some other tribes about the feasibility study on the forestry enterprise, and she wanted to know if there was technical expertise available. Fred thinks that Tony Incashola, Jr. reached out to the Colville Tribe about their enterprise, and he will verify that. **Anita Matt** commented that the main question is the \$25,000 limit they can make on a permit and she wanted to know if other tribes have had these same problems. **Fred Matt** will follow up on that. **Chairwoman Fyant** said we had asked for a waiver and then pulled it back. We never pursued changing the CFR. Fred will need to take the lead on these issues since he is on the committee. **Charmel Gillin** talked about something that was discussed at a meeting in the chambers and she thought Fred was going to follow up with ITC. Fred explained that the issue was about going to congress to get the CFR changed. Charmel talked about pursuing the process to get these changes made. **Carole Lankford** asked about fire funding. We are losing that funding, which will cause a loss of jobs during the winter months. Fred said Jim Durglo heads up the fire subcommittee and Fred was in the symposium subcommittee, so he would have to ask Jim about that. Carole will follow up with Jim to see what we can do to fight for our funding.

Patricia Kinley, Tribal Court Improvement Program, requested approval of a consultant contract with Margaret Burt in the amount of \$5,700.00 to provide a two-day IV-E legal training and child welfare policy development compliance training on March 18 & 19, 2020, at the Kwataqnuq Resort. Margaret has provided this type of training to the staff for several years. **Martin Charlo** questioned why the box was checked on page 7, number 13. Patricia responded that this is a new form and she specifically asked Lissa Peel to review it. Patricia has no association with Margaret or the contract. It appears the worker is the consultant. The consultant receives a benefit for providing her services to the Tribes. **Chairwoman Fyant** met with Lissa this morning about the contract. Lissa told Shelly that this is an old form, and Legal and personnel needs to go through it, and said the contract was okay as is. **Charmel Gillin** agreed that the form needs to be updated. She had questions about number 4 being an unchecked box and discussed contracts coming to council when action is not required.

MOTION by Bing Matt to approve a consultant contract with Margaret Burt in the amount of \$5,700.00 to provide a two-day IV-E legal training and child welfare policy development compliance training on March 18 & 19, 2020. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

Bing Matt wanted to know if there was any assistance that the council could provide to the Moran family. Rooms at the Kwataqnuq Resort and some Walmart cards were provided. **Council** will discuss what assistance is available for the family.

Council met in **executive session** to conduct interviews for the Energy Keepers, Inc. Board of Directors vacancies. **Melanie Piedalue**, Personnel Department, was present for interviews.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

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

Council continued to meet in **executive session** to conduct interviews for the Energy Keepers, Inc. Board of Directors vacancies. **Melanie Piedalue**, Personnel Department, was present for interviews.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to accept the results of the ballots for the Energy Keepers, Inc. Board of Directors and appoint Joe Durglo, James Steele, Jr., Ralph Goode, and Janna Blanter for the designated terms (the two tribal members with the most votes get appointed for the longest terms, and the other tribal member and nontribal member get appointed to the shorter terms). Seconded by Charmel Gillin. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

Chairwoman Fyant requested an update on assistance provided to the Moran family. **Donna Durglo**, Council Support, informed council that the report from Jody Perez at Salish Kootenai Housing Authority is at this time one household has been approved. This household includes Michael Sr., Evelyn, and Michael Jr. The other two households will be brought before the Board of Commissioners on Tuesday. We will be requesting a waiver of the waiting list for both households. We will also be requesting to waive the reapplying for services for Alice Moran since she has a large accounts receivable. Jody does not know if SKHA can help the remaining two families until the Board of Commissioners make their decision on Tuesday. The update from DHRD was that Mike and Evelyn are working with the insurance company. They can use \$5,000 at their own expense for home rental, clothing, house supplies, etc. and then get reimbursed. They need to keep all receipts. Natalie does not believe they have the personal funds to do this. They received \$500 from the DHRD Fire Fund. Mike, Sr. paid for a room for Mike, Jr. in Missoula. She did not know for how long or why Missoula. Evie (sister) requested a clothing voucher or funds for Mike, Jr., but he has not visited DHRD. The insurance company said that the home could be rebuilt, so the SKHA housing would be temporary. Alice is still at the Resort with the grandkids. DHRD paid for two nights. Alice went to Red

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Cross and received \$600, which she applied to KwaTaqNuk Resort until she finds out about SKHA housing next week. Alice also received DHRD General Assistance funds of \$500. Alice's son Daylin received a \$150 Walmart card. There is a Go Fund Me account set up. People in Arlee are getting donations together. There is no furniture in the house Mike and Evelyn will be living at, so they will need furniture.

Chairwoman Fyant informed council that there is a Headwaters Foundation invite letter in the council packet regarding the American Indian Wellness Strategic Initiative Planning Workshop in Missoula on Friday, February 21, 2020, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. The purpose of the workshop is to learn vision for American Indian wellness in Western Montana, develop focus issues for 3-5 year initiative, and understand the roles and future of American Indian Advisory Committee. Jami Pluff and Martin Charlo will be attending the workshop.

Melanie Piedalue, Personnel Department, met with council in **executive session** to discuss a personnel matter.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Martin Charlo requested a tribal flag for the tribal self-governance conference. It was the **consensus** of council to authorize a tribal flag.

MOTION by Fred Matt to adjourn the meeting.

Council **adjourned** at 4:07 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, February 18, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Ellie Bundy McLeod
Tribal Secretary