

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

Volume 20 Number 38  
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: February 18, 2020  
Approved: February 25, 2020

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Shelly Fyant, Chairwoman; Anita Matt, Vice-Chairwoman; Ellie Bundy McLeod, Secretary; Martin Charlo, Treasurer; Carole Lankford; James “Bing” Matt; Fred Matt; Mike Dolson; Charmel Gillin; 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 9:01 a.m. Quorum established. **Charmel Gillin** on PTO and will join the meeting this afternoon.

The meeting was opened with a **prayer** by Anita Matt.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for February 11, 2020 were presented for approval.

**MOTION** by Len TwoTeeth to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for February 11, 2020, with corrections. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

**MOTION** by Anita Matt to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

**Melanie Smith** and **Adrianna Fehrs**, Department of Human Resources Development, informed council that when the Tribes entered into a memorandum of understanding with the State, they did a friendship bracelet. The bracelets are made with good intent and love. The bracelets are blue, because blue is the color for raising awareness for abuse and neglect of children. Children are our priority for our future. April is the National Awareness of Abuse and Neglect Month and April 22 is Awareness Day. Melanie would like to get out as many bracelets as she can by then and have people wear them to raise awareness.

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes  
February 18, 2020

**Chairwoman Fyant** followed up on the issue of Two Eagle River School not having a School Resource Officer (SRO). Chief Couture had suggested using a Game Warden to cover that job in the short term. After reviewing it with the Natural Resources Department, they concluded that: the Fish & Game Officers are not trained to handle this specialized SRO position, which would create a tremendous liability; the department does not have extra personnel to cover that position since the Game Wardens cover the entire reservation; the ship to process could occur at any time and the Game Wardens need to physically be with the bison during transport. Ben Ascencio and Orsino Walker have the necessary training for the SRO position. TERS applied for a SAMHSA grant but won't hear back on it for a while. **Craige Couture**, Law & Order, explained that an SRO requires a state-certified officer. The Salish Kootenai College Security staff patrols in the area, so maybe we could do a shared responsibility between Law & Order, Fish & Game and Salish Kootenai College Security on a short-term basis until we hear whether the school is awarded that grant. There is an officer waiting to get into the police academy and Orsino is filling in while the department is short staffed; otherwise, Orsino would be back at TERS. **Martin Charlo** had spoken to someone that is post-certified who used to be a Game Warden and is interested in working with the youth. Craige said individuals have a three-year period to get back into law enforcement, or else they have to go to the academy again. If the person is within that time frame, he would be able to do that. Putting that person at TERS would be a quick fix, but funding would be an issue. **Carole Lankford** suggested that the chairwoman visit with the three agencies to discuss the importance of having an SRO over there. Getting a buy-in by everyone is very important or it will not work out. The budget committee met about funding an SRO position. Martin said there was no clear decision and the committee is meeting again next week. Law & Order and Fish & Game were going to report back. The consensus of the committee was to try to get someone over there and how it would be funded. **Council** will revisit this issue at next week's budget committee meeting. TERS wanted tribal funding until they hear if the SAMHSA grant will be awarded. **Len TwoTeeth** informed council that there is a tribal member security contractor who is a former KHJCC Security Officer and he owns a security business. Len suggested that we could get him over there on a short-term basis until we can get a long-term fix for this. **Chairwoman Fyant** commented that the council would look at the option of the three agencies sharing that responsibility, the budget request, and Len's recommendation. Shelly asked Len to reach out to Rodney to see if that option would work for him.

**Craige Couture**, Law and Order, met with council in **executive session**.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**Miranda Burland**, Tribal Education Department, requested approval of a change of duty for Linda Ferris and Carla Linsebigler, Parent Committee Members, to

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes  
February 18, 2020

attend the quarterly reservation-wide Indian Education Committee training this Friday, from 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., at the Mission Valley Power Conference Room.

**MOTION** by Carole Lankford to authorize a change of duty, with supervisor approval, for Linda Ferris and Carla Linsebigler to attend the Indian Education Parent Committee Training on February 21, 2020. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

**Tabitha Espinoza, Shane Bird and Craig Stevenson**, Kidney Keepers Klondike Relay Team, requested permission for a free-use group permit for the Big River Run along the Flathead River to raise money. If there is a change of location, the request must come back to council.

**MOTION** by Fred Matt to approve a free-use group permit along the Flathead River for the Big River Run event. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

**Rob McDonald**, Communications, requested approval of a letter asking folks to take part in the 2020 Census positions. **Len TwoTeeth** commented that there is a labor law that would be violated since the employees work 40 hours a week for the Tribes and then do outside employment on the census, so they would need to be paid overtime. Rob obtained review, and it would not be considered double dipping; it is outside employment so it would not be a problem for employees to apply for these positions. **Chairwoman Fyant** wants the letter to clarify that no change of duty will be granted to do this work since it is outside of their normal workday.

**MOTION** by Carole Lankford to approve the letter to employees, with the stated changes. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

**Len TwoTeeth** left the meeting for the remainder of the morning.

**Rob McDonald**, Communications, informed council that the Montana Nonprofit Association is offering mini grants, and Rob requested approval to apply for a \$5,000.00 grant for public events.

**MOTION** by Mike Dolson to approve the grant application to help with the 2020 Census efforts. Seconded by Ellie Bundy McLeod. Carried, unanimous (8 present – Len TwoTeeth out of the room).

**Rob McDonald**, Communications; and **Sam Sandoval**, Char-Koosta News; requested approval to hire Jordynn Paz on a two-year part-time contract to fill the Char-Koosta News Reporter position. The department has had some difficulty in getting applicants for these positions.

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes  
February 18, 2020

**MOTION** by Ellie Bundy McLeod to approve the hire of Jordynn Paz on a two-year part-time contract to fill the Char-Koosta News Reporter position through May 2020. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (8 present - Len TwoTeeth out of the room).

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

**Scott Johnston** and **Dan Lozar**, Natural Resources Department, discussed the Camas Prairie Cemetery. The road would need to be added to the national tribal transportation facilities road inventory. It would take a survey, a right-of-way designation, get it on the BIA roadway inventory system, get it on the long-range transportation plan, and then the Roads Program would have to maintain that road. It would need to remain as a public roadway. It would take a council directive for the program to begin the process of adding this to the public inventory. The road section was evaluated and the soils are not conducive to heavy loading. They will look into whether SKC is an option and report back to council. **Mark Couture**, Tribal Lands Department, advised that there is more than one cemetery in the Camas area. Lands has been trying to assist the Roads program. He spoke to Tony Incashola, Jr., Forestry Department Head, to see if they can assist with equipment operating. If they have some logging work in the area then it would be feasible, but it is costly on the Forestry Department to just take their equipment over there to do the work. SKC, Forestry, and Roads programs could work together, if feasible, to get the work done on the road without making it is a public roadway.

**Scott Johnston** and **Dan Lozar**, Natural Resources Department, requested approval of modification 3 to the CMGC contract with Dick Anderson for the Mission Valley Guardrail project and the reservation entrance/exit boundary signs project at the negotiated guaranteed maximum price. **Chairwoman Fyant** requested a press release so people know we are contributing to the county roads.

**MOTION** by Martin Charlo to approve modification 3 to the CMGC contract with Dick Anderson for the Mission Valley Guardrail project and the reservation entrance/exit boundary signs project at the negotiated guaranteed maximum price. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, unanimous (8 present – Len TwoTeeth out of the room).

**Carole Lankford** out of the room for the next request.

**Clayton Matt**, Tribal Services/Tribal Health Department, requested approval of a contract with Gwen Spencer, Sapphire Strategies, to provide Tribal Health public relations services. **No action taken.** Council took the request under advisement until Thursday to allow time to review the scope of work and

contract, obtain an assessment of services provided in the past, and obtain the Contracts & Grants review/approval.

**Carole Lankford** returned to the meeting.

**Clayton Matt**, Tribal Services, provided orientation on Tribal Services and handed out a copy of the organizational chart. **Chairwoman Fyant** advised that the organizational chart provided is not the chart in existence. **Rick Eneas** explained that an updated organizational chart was approved for the IDC proposal. The new chart is available, and the Personnel Department has it. Clayton has gotten all his program orientations scheduled.

**Chairwoman Fyant** informed council that there is a CTAS grant letter in the packet. The letter is required for the grant that will be submitted next Monday. The Department of Justice is wondering about the maintenance of the building after the Tribal Court building is renovated. **Ellie Bundy McLeod** pointed out some clerical errors that need to be corrected.

**MOTION** by Anita Matt to approve the letter, with corrections. Seconded by Ellie Bundy McLeod. Carried, unanimous (7 present – Len TwoTeeth and Martin Charlo out of the room).

**Rhonda Swaney** and **Daniel Decker**, Legal Department, requested approval of an amendment to the contract with James Goetz to provide attorney services for the Big Arm litigation.

**MOTION** by Carole Lankford to approve by resolution the amendment to the James Goetz contract to provide attorney services on the Big Arm litigation. Seconded by Ellie Bundy McLeod. Carried, 8 for; 0 opposed; 1 not voting (Len TwoTeeth out of the room).

## **RESOLUTION 20-071**

### **A RESOLUTION TO AMEND ATTORNEY CONTRACT WITH JAMES H. GOETZ.**

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

**WHEREAS**, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation wish to amend a Contract with James H. Goetz for his attorney services with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the intent of all the contracting parties that James H. Goetz shall continue working under the parameters of the original contract dated June

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes  
February 18, 2020

21, 2019 and the amended contract with the Tribes according to the terms and conditions stated therein.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that beginning February 18, 2020, James H. Goetz shall continue providing attorney services in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Contract Amendment.

**Rhonda Swaney** and **Daniel Decker**, Legal Department, discussed the Ronan Tribal Health complex. The yellow structure was to be moved to Dixon Agency. A supplemental right of way on the structures is on hold until council decides on the white house and the other structure. A bid was obtained to move those structures. One would be moved to Pablo and one would be moved to the government lot in Ronan. Once that is finalized, then we can do the supplemental documents. It was determined that one of the structures may not be movable or would not last long if moved. The modular that Anita looked at would be moved at no expense to the Tribes. The Tribes would have to cover the costs of moving the other two structures. The white house would go to the BIA lot. The other option was move it to Pablo. It is a council decision where to move it. Legal is still looking into the issue of the deed of the lot. Dan will get with Mark and follow up with the new superintendent. Dan will come back next week for an update on this.

**Rhonda Swaney** and **Brian Upton**, Legal Department, requested approval of a letter to the Defenders of Wildlife.

**MOTION** by Mike Dolson to approve the letter to the Defenders of Wildlife. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (8 present – Len TwoTeeth out of the room).

**Rhonda Swaney** and **Brian Upton**, Legal Department, requested approval of the Babcock Rental Agreement to screen the Bison Range film on April 22 at the Babcock Theater in Billings.

**MOTION** by Martin Charlo to approve the Babcock Rental Agreement to screen the Bison Range film at the Babcock Theater in Billings on April 22. Seconded by Fred Matt. Carried, unanimous (8 present – Len TwoTeeth out of the room).

**Rhonda Swaney, Yolanda Page, 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** returned to the meeting.

**Charmel Gillin** joined the meeting.

**Carole Lankford** left the meeting for the remainder of the day to go to Helena for a meeting.

**John Carter** and **Rhonda Swaney**, Legal Department; **Renee Joachim**, **Cory Clairmont** and **Melanie Piedalue**, Personnel Department; and **Rick Eneas**, Financial Management; met with council to review proposed revisions to Personnel Ordinance 69-C. Further review will be scheduled for a later date.

**John Carter**, Legal Department, gifted the council members with some tobacco from his farm.

**Shandin Pete**, Salish Kootenai College, had the students from his Tribal Waters Course introduce themselves. The students will present their final presentations to either the tribal council or the Culture Committees.

**Martin Charlo** received a call from Mike Moran, Sr. regarding assistance of \$257.00 for a housing deposit. **Chairwoman Fyant** was told by Carole Lankford yesterday that they needed \$257.00 and to contact Clayton. Shelly thought this was taken care of. **Jennifer Trahan** was directed to call Patricia. The discussion continued in **executive session**.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

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

Council **adjourned** at 2:31 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Thursday, February 20, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.

**CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES**

/sgnd/

---

Ellie Bundy McLeod  
Tribal Secretary