

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

Volume 21 Number 3
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: October 8, 2020
Approved: October 13, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: 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.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Shelly Fyant, Chairwoman (Sick).

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.

The meeting was opened with a **prayer** by Charmel Gillin.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for September 29, 2020 were presented for approval.

MOTION by Charmel Gillin to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for September 29, 2020, with corrections. Seconded by Ellie Bundy McLeod. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

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

MOTION by Ellie Bundy McLeod to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for October 6, 2020, with corrections. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

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

Shandin Pete, Salisha Old Bull and **Brenda Shepherd** requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss a personnel matter. **Rhonda Swaney** and **Daniel Decker**, Legal Department, joined the discussion.

Sharon Michel requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss a personal matter.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Bob McCrea, Ron Swaney and **Jacques Graham**, Tribal Forestry/Division of Fire, requested approval to hire Daniel Blackwolf on a three-year employment agreement to fill the Fire Tech Squad Leader – Engine Boss position. Daniel was hired on a temporary employment agreement for the past two years, but temporary employment agreements do not earn benefits and employment agreements do. Hiring Daniel on an employment agreement would not change his rate of pay. Daniel has been training tribal members to get the necessary qualifications, helps out with all aspects of the Division of Fire, is used as a sawyer, and is used as a crew boss, when needed. There is one tribal member that meets the qualifications for this position, but he has chosen not to be in this position. **Len TwoTeeth** commented that the department continues to hire non-tribal members without advertising to give tribal members the opportunity to apply for positions. Len would like the process followed.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to take the recommendation from the program manager and authorize the hire of Daniel Blackwolf on a three-year employment agreement to fill the Fire Tech Squad Leader – Engine Boss position, with the identified corrections on the contract. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, 6 for; 2 opposed (Len TwoTeeth and Charmel Gillin); 1 not voting (Ellie Bundy McLeod out of the room attending MMIP meeting).

***Len TwoTeeth**, for the record, “I am opposed because I would like to see the position advertised.”*

Bob McCrea and **Ron Swaney**, Tribal Forestry/Division of Fire, gave a fire update. There were two new fires recently; one in Pablo and one in Elmo. The Elmo fire was person caused and remains under investigation. That fire is now contained. The fire crews in California will be headed home shortly. The Mission Valley Fire Crews are in Colorado and will be headed home on Sunday. They had a close call with COVID yesterday. A member was tested and the person had to be diagnosed with an illness or the entire crew would need to be quarantined. The person was diagnosed with a cold. The heliteck crew has been helping with the Colville fire since September 9 and those crews will be headed home soon.

James Lozeau, Tribal Forestry, requested approval of a modification to the contract with Glacier Cone Company to plant an additional 9,000 plants they have on hand.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to approve a contract modification with Glacier Cone Company to plant the additional 9,000 plants. Seconded by Carole Lankford. Carried, unanimous (8 present – Ellie Bundy McLeod out of the room attending MMIP meeting).

Johnathan Owens and **Dr. Bernadette Corum**, Tribal Health Department, requested approval of a three-year contract with Brenda Stryko to fill the Nurse Practitioner position, with the stated pay increase. **Carole Lankford** questioned the compensation. Council had a similar request earlier this week. **Charmel Gillin** asked why the position was not advertised. **Dr. Corum** responded that Brenda helps provide coverage when other nurses are on vacation, she helps with providing coverage at the Salish Kootenai College Clinic, and she helps with other efforts such as COVID and immunizations. It is important that the Tribal Health Department let Brenda know they value her contract; that is why it is being approved with the pay raise. The Tribal Health Department is trying to keep providers on staff for consistency and not have to train new providers, so the department chose not to advertise it. Other nurse practitioner positions will be advertised in the future. Brenda works for Tribal Health one day per week.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to take Johnathan Owens' recommendation and modify the contract with Brenda Stryko to extend the term for three years. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (8 present – Ellie Bundy McLeod out of the room attending MMIP meeting).

Scott Johnston, Natural Resources Department, requested approval to modify the contract with Dick Anderson Construction for Work Package 9B to add the Perma curves reservation boundary sign on Highway 200. The amount is increased by \$20,465.00, for a total of \$3.196 million. **Len TwoTeeth** was glad the reservation signs are being redone and he would like them to have LED lights so the signs are lit up at night.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to proceed with modification 5 to the contract with Dick Anderson Construction. Seconded by Fred Matt. Carried, unanimous (8 present – Ellie Bundy McLeod out of the room attending MMIP meeting).

Scott Johnston informed council that the Highway 28 sign by Dog Lake is completed now.

Mark Couture, Tribal Lands Department, presented a request from Donald Fred Matt for the Tribes to show disinterest in Flathead Tract 4411-B, containing 1.19 acres, so the property can be placed in fee status due to a non-tribal member being interested in purchasing this property. The Land Committee recommended approval of the request.

MOTION by Charmel Gillin to approve a letter of disinterest for Flathead Tract 4411-B. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, 6 for; 3 abstentions (Fred Matt and Carole Lankford; Ellie Bundy McLeod – not present for discussion).

Mark Couture, Tribal Lands Department, presented a request from Ralph Goode for a letter of disinterest in Flathead Allotment 619 so the property can be transferred to fee status. The property contains the house and shop. The property was advertised to tribal members and no offers were received. The Land Committee recommended approval of the request.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to approve a letter of disinterest for Flathead Allotment 619 from Ralph Goode. Seconded by Ellie Bundy McLeod. Carried, 8 for; 1 abstention (Mike Dolson).

Carole Lankford asked if we are being consistent with the people we denied or took no action on in the past. **Mark Couture** believes we are being consistent. The Land Committee has good discussion before making a recommendation. **Carole Lankford** changed her vote on Fred Matt's request due to getting that clarification from Mark Couture. **MOTION CARRIED**, 7 for; 2 abstentions (Fred Matt; and Ellie Bundy McLeod – not present for discussion).

Mark Couture, Tribal Lands Department, discussed a request from Craig McLure, Chairman of the Lake County Democrats, for the designation of tribal property for additional political signs to be posted on the property located across from The Shoe (Irvine Flats and Highway 93). **Len TwoTeeth** commented that we designated those sites on tribal properties for this purpose and he does not want to start getting political signs everywhere on tribal lands. We should follow policy and only post signs in designated areas. Mark said Mr. McLure wants to get more signs posted in Polson. The opponent is doing that. Mark told him it would not be just for one party, so if the request were approved it would be for either party to post signs. **Carole Lankford** commented that we have a policy in place and Mark should just follow it.

Michelle Mitchell, Tribal Education Department, requested approval of a memorandum of agreement for an education pod with Judy Gobert. The memorandum of agreement was approved for the Mossy Rez School, but the language must be very precise in the memorandum of agreement and needs to be with Judy Gobert, not the Mossy Rez School.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to change the name on the memorandum of agreement with Judy Gobert. Seconded by Ellie Bundy McLeod. Carried, unanimous (8 present – Charmel Gillin out of the room).

Michelle Mitchell, Tribal Education Department; and **April Charlo**; discussed

April's education pod with the home school grant and requested approval of the pod.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to proceed with April Charlo's education pod. Seconded by Ellie Bundy McLeod. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

Jami Pluff, Michelle Mitchell, Craige Couture, Jim Taylor, Mary Charlo, Ann Miller, Winona Tanner, Louis Fiddler, Marlene LaFromboise, and Lisa Shourds, CTAS Committee; discussed the collaborative CTAS grant. A meeting was scheduled in December with all the departments within the justice system and those that work with youth. What transpired was the CTAS Core Team where the team worked together to identify priorities for each of the purpose areas in the grant. The team worked with grant writer Dana Grant and met numerous times from December until February identifying needs and how best to address them in order to support an improved justice system. Council approved the resolution to apply for the grant in January 2020. The team applied for 8 purpose areas and received funding in 6 of those areas for over \$3 million. They honored Dana Grant and he was gifted with a blanket for all the successful grant funding he has gotten for the CSKT. The committee gave an overview of the purpose areas. Purpose Area 1 provides over \$200,000 in funding to provide more communication for the safety of officers. The devices are over 15 years old. It includes mobile and portable units for officers and a new feeder for the south end. Purpose Area 2 continues the work that the CTAS core team has started to improve the justice system. They will meet every two weeks and then monthly to develop a strategic plan. There will be an advisory board that will consist of a couple of council members. This grant has a project coordinator to be hired for two years. The team will come back with some contracts that are needed. Purpose Area 3 is for the justice system and alcohol substance use. Finding services and access to services for mental health and substance use disorders has been a challenge, and so is getting inmates out of jail to access services. They need a more comprehensive pretrial/jail diversion to treat their clients. This allows us to resume cultural mentoring services. A culture coordinator will be hired to set this up. The mentors are volunteers. A psychologist will be placed in the court to do evaluations and possible treatment to address underlying issues. GPS, drug patches, and monitoring bracelets will be funded with the grant. A data entry technician will be hired at the court. They are working to improve outcomes for families. Homelessness being addressed by the Tribes will help. It is important to have the necessary components in the court system. The Tribal Court needs a data entry technician. The clerks are not able to input that information as part of their daily duties. The technician will enter all court records. The mics in the courtroom will be replaced. Purpose Area 4 is for the tribal justice infrastructure program. This is a unique purpose area because those grants are not found very often. The Tribal Court building was constructed in 1979 and the building is old and in

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need of repairs and expansion. The building also needs to be ADA compliant. The bathrooms in the lobby have been there since 1979 and cannot be made ADA compliant for people with disabilities. It will provide security for the building with improved security components and cameras in the building. A consultant looked at the building and felt it is very unsecure. \$879,000 was approved under that portion of the grant. The grant has several stages for getting the renovations done. Law & Order received an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant to fund the remodel and expansion of the tribal jail building. Purpose Area 5 is for Violence Against Women Act support and advocacy for survivors. The Victim Assistance program will continue their housing for survivors. They provide rental assistance to them to become empowered and living on their own. They can hire a counselor onsite with this funding. Purpose Area 8 is for the youth and reduce recidivism. It makes the system more cohesive and ties the court system into a healing system, not a cumulative one, and gets youth get out of the cycle. The approach will be the same as we started planning with the child protection diversion committee and be approached as a family needing services model. It is a family issue and provides services to the family. They work with children in that context. There will be consistency with the work they do with child protection and youth services to offer services to families. It will contribute to health and wellness in the community. **Dana Grant** stressed the sooner they get the position descriptions finalized and contracts out, the better. He wants the process to get going as soon as possible. It is important that the story is told as it is happening. They should continue to share information with the community. It involves a change in how people think about stuff and their mindset. People need to see things in a different way; that takes a lot of messaging and branding to change the mindset of people. Purpose Area 6 will have a chance to get funding next year since it was not funded in this cycle. **Carole Lankford** commented that the data for this funding is important to the Tribal Council to make decisions and fill in the parts that are needed. **Ellie Bundy McLeod** commended the team for all their work in a short time period. It will provide amazing opportunities for the community. She has seen Dana's work and he is amazing; she appreciates the work he put into this. **Len TwoTeeth** told Dana how valuable he is to the Tribes. If we had ten more Danas we would be able to improve our programs. Len thanked Dana for the work he has done; we see the difference his work has made. **Jim Taylor** commented that we have great people working for the Tribes, but they have too much work to do and need more support. The meetings are productive, but with the work that needs to be done nobody has the time to do that. The Prosecutors staff participated in the process but did not request any funding. **Lisa Shourds** went over the financials. She is the financial manager of these grants. We got notice of the award but have not seen the award itself. We will not see the award until October 15. At that time we will be able to determine if there is anything we need to do upfront or if there are any prerequisites we need to fill upfront. The grant was written before COVID happened, so there could be changes coming up that they do not know about yet. Supplies need to be added to

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budgets because that was not a need before COVID. They do not know issues to be addressed yet, but they will need to overcome any hurdles. The team meets on a monthly basis to address stuff. Once they get the chairwoman to sign the award they will get the position descriptions updated, address key personnel, make sure an admin person can come to council on behalf of the group, her role to be the financial contact person, and make sure they all follow the guidelines of the award. There may be draw limits until specific requirements are filled, but they will not be aware of it until they get the award itself. The team can update the community if the Tribal Council wants them to. Lisa is the financial key person. They will need to meet with Zack Camel in Accounting to figure out the accounting structure and how to set that up and track what is necessary for reporting. **Anita Matt** thanked Dana Grant for the work he does and his dedication.

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

Rhonda Swaney and **Ryan Rusche**, Legal Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

MOTION by Fred Matt to make the endorsement for Steve Daines. Seconded by Charmel Gillin. Carried, 6 for; 3 abstentions (Carole Lankford, Mike Dolson and Bing Matt).

Martin Charlo, for the record, “Mr. Daines has helped CSKT with the water compact, also with turning over the National Bison Range.”

MOTION by Martin Charlo to endorse Bryce Bennett for Secretary of State 2020. Seconded by Ellie Bundy McLeod. Carried, 6 for; 3 abstentions (Carole Lankford, Mike Dolson and Bing Matt).

Charmel Gillin requested any documentation necessary from Legal from this time forward that we do not be endorsing political candidates as a governing body. We never completed that action. **Ryan Rusche** advised that Legal could begin working on an ordinance for political endorsements.

Jody Perez, Janet Camel, Katie Symons, Robin Thorne, and Charmel McClure-Sternick, Homeless Committee, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss homelessness. **Ann Miller**, Tribal Defenders Office; and **Rick Eneas**, Financial Management; were present for discussion.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to accept the recommendation of the

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Homeless Committee and would like to find the funding to operate the former Starlite Motel. Seconded by Ellie Bundy McLeod. Carried, 6 for; 1 opposed (Mike Dolson); 2 abstentions (Bing Matt and Fred Matt).

MOTION by Martin Charlo to let the Homeless Committee use the former Tina Marie's Smoke Shop rent free for storage of materials for the Starlite. Seconded by Ellie Bundy McLeod. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

It was the **consensus** of council to approve the sewer, water, and utility plan for the Kicking Horse Job Corps Center.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to adjourn the meeting.

Council **adjourned** at 1:22 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Ellie Bundy McLeod
Tribal Council Secretary