

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

Volume 21 Number 93

Held: September 20, 2021  
and September 21, 2021

Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Approved: September 23, 2021

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Anita Matt, Vice-Chairwoman; Ellie Bundy McLeod, Secretary; Martin Charlo, Treasurer; Carole Lankford; James “Bing” Matt; Charmel Gillin (09/21/2021 meeting only); Mike Dolson; and Len TwoTeeth.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Shelly Fyant, Chairwoman (Due to the Death of a Family Member); and St. Ignatius District (Vacant).

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jennifer Trahan, Council Office Manager; and Abby Dupuis, Recording Secretary.

The meeting was called to **order** at 2:04 p.m. Quorum established.

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

**Ryan Rusche**, Chief of Staff; **Rhonda Swaney**, **Daniel Decker**, **Michael Wheeler**, **Chelsea Colwyn**, **Shane Morigeau**, **John Harrison**, and **Yolanda Page**; Legal Department; **Rick Eneas**, Tribal Executive Officer; **Tammy Matt**, Tribal Health Department; and **Rob McDonald**, Communications; met with council to discuss a proposed resolution proclaiming a state of emergency and ordering a reservation-wide mask mandate to protect the residents of the Flathead Reservation. The order will remain in effect until revoked by the Tribal Council. **Mike Dolson** liked what he was seeing but he did not want to vote on this until tomorrow morning. **Bing Matt** asked Tammy if she had any recommended changes to the resolution. **Tammy Matt** had no proposed changes, other than the face shield piece of it. **Carole Lankford** expressed concern about the state of emergency wording and if it is truly a state of emergency she was concerned about continuing to still hold meetings. **Martin Charlo** commented that tomorrow’s meeting is important and the COVID protocols will be followed. **Council** took the resolution under advisement to allow time for council review, the Legal Department to follow up with the key players, and for Tammy Matt to write her testimony. **Anita Matt** mentioned that we need to start thinking about department plans and teleworking.

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**MOTION** by Martin Charlo to recess the meeting until tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. Seconded by Len TwoTeeth. Carried, unanimous (7 present).

Council **recessed** the meeting at 2:59 p.m., until Tuesday, September 21, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\* **Recess** \*\*\*\*\*

**Tuesday, September 21, 2021**

The meeting **reconvened** at 2:00 p.m.

**Charmel Gillin** joined the meeting.

**Ryan Rusche**, Chief of Staff, informed council that he made the necessary edits to the resolution from yesterday's discussion, and he presented for consideration a revised resolution proclaiming a state of public health emergency and ordering a reservation-wide mask mandate to protect the residents of the Flathead Reservation. **Rhonda Swaney** recommended talking to the local government entities about why the CSKT is doing this mandate. **Carole Lankford** understands the importance of trying to protect our community and it is sad how many people we have lost to COVID, but she does not think this is the direction we need to go. Some people have a strong opinion about being vaccinated, and that is their choice. Carole does not think we have done the due diligence on this matter. The discussion continued in **executive session**.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**MOTION** by Martin Charlo to have the Legal Department revise the public health emergency declaration and come back Thursday. Seconded by Ellie Bundy McLeod. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

**Anita Matt** will have Rob McDonald work with the Tribal Council and have a letter sent to the different governments and schools advising them we are declaring an emergency and would like to meet with them. **Martin Charlo** will reach out to Gale Decker. Ellie Bundy McLeod has been in contact with Steve Stanley and Shelly Fyant has been meeting with Bill Barron.

**Mike Dolson** informed council that tribal member elder Thelma Niemeyer had a medical procedure and requested that her daughter, Barbara Fink, be her home care provider. They made the application to the Elders Program, and Constance Morigeau is requesting that the background check requirement be waived since it takes up to thirty days to get it back.

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**MOTION** by Len TwoTeeth to waive the background check policy for Barbara Fink to be Thelma Niemeyer's personal home care giver and direct the Department of Human Resources Development to follow up in thirty days and do the due diligence on the background check. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

**Len TwoTeeth** received a request from tribal member Jim Clairmont for nonmember burial assistance for his mother, Mary Jennen. It was the **consensus** of council to authorize nonmember burial assistance.

**Martin Charlo** informed council that the St. Ignatius School Board meeting is this evening. The meeting will be on Facebook and via zoom, but no public comments will be allowed. Martin requested that Jennifer provide him the meeting link. Bing Matt would like Tammy Matt to notify the school board of the number of COVID cases being reported and that there were 70 new cases today. Jennifer Trahan informed council that the school board meeting will be at the St. Ignatius School Library at 7:00 p.m.

**MOTION** by Martin Charlo to adjourn the meeting.

Council **adjourned** at 3:43 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Thursday, September 23, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.

**CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES**

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Ellie Bundy McLeod  
Tribal Council Secretary