

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

Volume 21 Number 94
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: September 23, 2021
Approved: September 28, 2021

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ellie Bundy McLeod, Secretary (Personal Time Off); and St. Ignatius District (Vacant).

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 9:03 a.m. Quorum established.

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

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for September 16, 2021 were presented for approval.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for September 16, 2021, with corrections. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, 7 for; 1 abstention (Shelly Fyant).

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for September 20, 2021 and September 21, 2021 were presented for approval.

MOTION by Bing Matt to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for September 20, 2021 and September 21, 2021, with corrections. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, 7 for; 1 abstention (Shelly Fyant).

The **agenda** was presented for approval. The afternoon agenda items will be moved up on the agenda, due to no quorum this afternoon.

MOTION by Anita Matt to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

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Martin Charlo discussed the number of COVID cases. As of yesterday, there were 39 new cases, for a total of 374 active cases. 87 of those are breakthrough cases, but the majority of the patients in the hospitals and ICU are unvaccinated. Martin attended the St. Ignatius School Board meeting last night and offered assistance. **Carole Lankford** wants the Tribal Council as a collective body to meet with the surrounding County Commissioners and School Boards, and she would like those meetings to get scheduled. **Martin Charlo** reported that the School Board did make a strong recommendation for everyone to wear a mask. We need parents to start contacting school officials to let them know how they feel about the issue. **Mike Dolson** wants a report on the number of cases due to employee travel and he wants to know if employee travel is causing any problems. **Anita Matt** planned on talking with the commissioners and school boards after the staff gets the fact sheets, and she hopes to get those meetings set up with each of those organizations. Anita would also like to meet with the Sanders County Commissioners. **Chairwoman Fyant** wants a full report after the chair's meeting next week in preparation for the meetings with the surrounding County Commissioners and School Boards. **Len TwoTeeth** would like the council to be more discretionary on the COVID leave for employees. We are getting more cases where employees have their children being sent home and need to be quarantined and sometimes it is longer than the eighty hours they are getting, so Len wants to make it discretionary for the council to approve it on a case-by-case basis.

Mark Couture, Tribal Lands Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss a land issue. **Rhonda Swaney** and **Dan Decker**, Legal Department, were present for discussion.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to approve the buy/sell agreement with Ken Smith for the Whiskey Trail property. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

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

Stu Levit, Legal Department; **Jane Nishida**, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for EPA's Office of International and Tribal Affairs; **Michael Flores**, Deputy Director Office of Canadian Affairs at the U.S. Department of State; **Elizabeth Christenson-Diver**, Program Analyst, Fellow at Office of Canadian Affairs at the U.S. Department of State; **Jason Gildea**, Environmental Protection Agency Region 8 Water Policy Advisor; **Bert Garcia**, Deputy Division Director at EPA, Water Division Deputy; **Patty McGrath**, Mining Advisor, Environmental Protection Agency Region 10; **Jim Elser**, **Tom Bansak** and **Phil Matson**, Flathead Lake Biological Station; **Rich Janssen**, **Tabitha Espinoza**, **Chauncey Means**, **Evan Smith**, and **Randy Ashley**, Natural Resources

Department; requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss the Elk Watershed and transboundary mining contamination.

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

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Niki Graham, University of Montana/Montana State University; and **Susan Brown Trinidad**, University of Washington; requested a letter of support for the research proposal project titled Effects of Guided Reflection on Adolescents' Responses When Friends Are Threatened. It focuses on middle school aged children. The grant application is due by mid-October. If funded, it would start the 2022-2023 school year. The purpose of the study is to understand how young people respond when a friend is threatened in a school setting.

MOTION by Mike Dolson to approve the letter of support for the research proposal project titled Effects of Guided Reflection on Adolescents' Responses When Friends Are Threatened. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, unanimous (7 present).

Johnathan Owens and **Brenda Bodnar**, Tribal Health Department, requested approval of a resolution approving the submission of proposal documents to the Indian Health Service for the continuation application for the Special Diabetes Program for Indians grant in the amount of \$1,044,881.00. **Chairwoman Fyant** asked if the diabetes report was ever rescheduled when council had requested additional information on the plan and prevention efforts. It was rescheduled for the next Tribal Health Committee meeting.

MOTION by Anita Matt to approve by resolution submission of proposal documents to the Indian Health Service for the continuation application for the Special Diabetes Program for Indians grant in the amount of \$1,044,881.00. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, 7 for; 0 opposed; 0 not voting.

RESOLUTION 21-127

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL DOCUMENTS TO INDIAN HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE CONTINUATION APPLICATION FOR THE SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAM FOR INDIANS GRANT

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES THAT:

WHEREAS, The Tribal Health Department was established to provide and manage health care to the people of the Flathead Indian Reservation; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Health Department, as part of its effort to provide health and medical care, will provide services in primary, secondary, and tertiary diabetes prevention; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Health Department is soliciting funding in the amount of \$1,040,881 to provide primary, secondary and tertiary diabetes prevention efforts throughout the Flathead Reservation; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Tribal Health Department is authorized to submit Indian Health Service Special Diabetes Program for Indians proposal documents with its updates and revisions to further carryout the purposes of the funds request, and to integrate and implement its most recent Diabetes Services work plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes supports the submission of the Special Diabetes Program for Indians program proposal documents and authorizes the Tribal Chair and her designated representative to negotiate and sign all documents and execute this contract on behalf of the Tribes.

Rhonda Swaney and **Dan Decker**, Legal Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss a legal matter. **Ryan Rusche**, Chief of Staff; and **Rick Eneas**, Tribal Executive Officer; were present for discussion.

Rhonda Swaney, Legal Department; **Ryan Rusche**, Chief of Staff; and **Rick Eneas**, Tribal Executive Officer; requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters. **Johnathan Owens**, Tribal Health Department, was present for discussion.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to approve by resolution an attorney contract with Christina Courville. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, 7 for; 0 opposed; 0 not voting.

RESOLUTION 21-128

A RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO AN ATTORNEY CONTRACT WITH CHRISTINA M. COURVILLE

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

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council, as primary governing body of the Flathead Nation, is entrusted with the responsibility to operate the Tribes' governmental

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business and protect and preserve Tribal property, wildlife and natural resources, and to protect the health, security and general welfare of the Tribes;

WHEREAS, protection and preservation of property, wildlife, natural resources, health, security, and general welfare of the Tribes is among the highest priorities of the Tribes;

WHEREAS, the Tribal government maintains a Legal Department, employs contract attorneys to staff that department, and contracts with additional attorneys, with Legal Department coordination, when such outside assistance is needed;

WHEREAS, the Legal Department provides to the Tribal Council and Tribal government its civil legal services;

WHEREAS, Christina M. Courville is a licensed attorney in the State of Montana, and wishes to provide legal services to the Tribes through the Legal Department;

WHEREAS, Christina M. Courville, Attorney, has agreed to provide her legal services according to the terms and conditions of her Attorney Contract;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Tribal Council approves said agreement and authorizes its execution by the Chairwoman and the Tribal Secretary.

It was the **consensus** of council to authorize the Executive Team to proceed with the incentive plan.

Martin Charlo would like to direct the Executive Team to restart the COVID campaigns, reinvigorate the campaigns to protect our elders, the videos, and the ads. Shadow Devereaux is on board to help with that cause. The target is getting the 12- to 40-year-old population vaccinated.

Anita Matt informed council that she received a request from Tina Neuman regarding a gift deed. Council took action on August 31, 2021 to approve a gift deed to her granddaughter, but it needs to be corrected to her daughter instead. **Rhonda Swaney** advised it would just be an administrative correction and no action is required.

Council met in **executive session** to discuss a personnel matter. **Rick Eneas**, Tribal Executive Officer; **Ryan Rusche**, Chief of Staff; and **Rhonda Swaney**, Legal Department; were present for discussion.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

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Council **adjourned** at 12:32 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, September 28, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Ellie Bundy McLeod
Tribal Council Secretary