

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

Volume 19 Number 50  
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: April 18, 2019  
Approved: May 2, 2019

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ronald Trahan, Chairman; Shelly Fyant, Secretary; Anita Matt, Treasurer; Myrna DuMontier; Fred Matt; Dennis Clairmont; Carole Lankford; and Leonard TwoTeeth.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Leonard Gray, Vice-Chairman (Personal Time Off); and Charmel Gillin (Personal Time Off).

**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 9:00 a.m. Quorum established.

The meeting was opened with a **prayer** by Myrna DuMontier.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for April 5, 2019 were presented for approval.

**MOTION** by Len TwoTeeth to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for April 5, 2019, with corrections. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, 7 for; 1 abstention (Dennis Clairmont).

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for April 9, 2019 were presented for approval.

**MOTION** by Anita Matt to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for April 9, 2019, with corrections. Seconded by Shelly Fyant. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

**MOTION** by Dennis Clairmont to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Len TwoTeeth. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

**Chairman Trahan** announced that Vern Clairmont's last day of work was yesterday. Ron acknowledged Vern's 44 years of tribal government service. He opened the floor for comments.

**Ruth Swaney** acknowledged Vern's influence on her career; it was her greatest growth both professionally and personally by working for him. Teresa Wall-McDonald also had a profound impact on Ruth's career by mentoring her, and that made her a better person. Ruth was appreciative of the opportunity to work for Vern. She is thankful for his successor, Rick Eneas. Rick is remarkable and she is honored to work with him. **Fred Matt** acknowledged the longstanding relationship and dedication that Vern had. It was more than just a job; it was a personal dedication to this community and this tribe and that is what made Vern so successful. Fred misses the people that used to work here, like Joe Dupuis, Jane Clairmont, Mickey Pablo, Judge Dupuis, and Judge Burke. Vern is entitled to some time for himself and his family. **Anita Matt** appreciated Vern's wisdom and knowledge, and for making the time to do that. She was thinking about how dedicated he is to this Tribe. Anita hopes Vern has a happy retirement and she will miss him. **Carole Lankford** thanked Vern for all he has done for us. **Art Caye** thought Vern is such a great leader. Art has known Vern for a long time and he hopes we all learn from him. We all need to get along here and support each other and make it easy for us; we don't need to be bitter and bickering at each other, because it makes things harder for us. Vern made Art understand that and to not come in here being mad. Rick will do a great job for us and he will keep us moving forward.

**Lucinda Michel, Elaina Buckskin** and **Natzach Herman** met with council due to Elaina and Natzach making some unwise decisions. They need to know their actions not only affect their mother, but they affect everyone. Lucinda acknowledged the Tribal Police for the way they handled this situation. It only took 45 minutes for law enforcement to have the girls placed on the missing child list. Lucinda wants the children to know that they are cared about and they should apologize to everyone. This is a learning experience and they need to acknowledge that their actions have a reaction. Natzach is here today because those girls were together. Lucinda acknowledged their friends who provided information while they were missing. Lucinda wanted the girls to apologize to everyone because tribal resources were used to locate them. She also wants them to know that they are loved by everyone. Tribal people need to be there for the children. Lucinda said 5 police officers had a talk with the girls. Elaina and Natzach apologized for their actions. **Fred Matt** thanked them for being here today. Everyone cares about them. We all have children and grandchildren and we are concerned about what we see with the Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women issue. There were three little girls hanging out at the store the other evening and they were walking along the street, and it is a serious situation of how dangerous it can be. He hopes they learn from this experience. Fred said one his girls got into trouble as a teenager, and Judge Burke dealt with her like

a parent. **Myrna DuMontier** appreciated Lucinda's parenting approach; it is what a traditional family does and holds them accountable because we love them enough to tell them the truth about what they have done. Our community is on hyper alert and we are constantly watching. Our eyes are on everyone because we do not want anything bad to happen to anyone. The evil out there hurts everyone. Those girls are lucky to have their mother love them enough to do this. **Anita Matt** was grateful they are here today. She has been watching and there has been many children missing. Anita appreciates the law enforcement and Lucinda's dedication. It only takes a second for a child to go missing. **Shelly Fyant** thanked Lucinda for being the mom that she is and for bringing in the girls today. She was sick thinking about this issue when they went missing. Shelly had reached out to find out what she could do to help. It was scary for everyone. Shelly is happy they are safe and she hopes they learn something from this and appreciate their parents. **Carole Lankford** lost a 14-year-old granddaughter for sneaking out and drinking; there is nothing worse than going to a hospital and seeing a parent be told that their child is gone. She is thankful the girls are here. Carole would do anything to be able to tell her granddaughter she loves her one more time. They need to realize the consequences on everybody. She wants them to be on a good path and turn this into something positive. They need to ignore the cruel comments people make on Facebook and just let it go. **Jami Pluff** has been working with the Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women Work Group and they have been wondering how to get the message out to young girls about how vulnerable they are without adults being present. Maybe the girls could go into the schools and tell their stories, write a paper on this and share it with young girls, and let them know how much the community cares about every one of them. It can be a dangerous situation and she hopes they think about that. Jami was glad they are here and are safe. **Chairman Trahan** said Lucinda did the best thing she can as a parent. Children need to be careful of whom they are with and where they go. He is happy they are sitting in front of us today and lead other people to tell them they do not want to do the same thing that they did; it affects everyone. He thanked their mom for doing what she is doing; she is doing something right for them. Lucinda informed council that the two girls are scheduled on the agenda to meet with the Kootenai Elders on May 8, 2019. Her daughter will be writing a letter to the bus driver, as well. The bus driver got in trouble for allowing her on the bus without a bus pass.

**Art Caye**, Tribal Member; **Carlene Wills**; and **Carolee Wenderoth**, Tribal Lands Department; requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss a personal matter. **Rick Eneas**, Financial Management; and **Jami Pluff**, Policy Analyst; were present for discussion.

**Burton "John" Bertsch** and **Alberta Bertsch** requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss a personal matter. **Jody Perez** and **Susan Tenas**,

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Salish Kootenai Housing Authority; **Louis Fiddler** and **Vern Fisher**, Law & Order; and **Jami Pluff**, Policy Analyst; were present for discussion.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**Tony Incashola, Jr.**, Tribal Forestry, requested approval of a woodcutting issue for family member assistance for Richard McLeod.

**MOTION** by Len TwoTeeth to approve the wood cutting issue for family member assistance for Richard McLeod. Seconded by Myrna DuMontier. Carried, 6 for; 1 abstention (Shelly Fyant); 1 not voting (Carole Lankford out of the room).

**Tony Incashola, Jr.**, Tribal Forestry, requested approval to accept the high bid on the Garden Creek Fire Salvage Logging Unit timber sale.

**MOTION** by Fred Matt to approve the high bid from Cheff Line Logging Company for the Garden Creek Fire Salvage Logging Unit timber sale. Seconded by Dennis Clairmont. Carried, 6 for; 2 abstentions (Myrna DuMontier and Shelly Fyant).

**Tony Incashola, Jr.**, Tribal Forestry, requested approval to hire Jacob Sandburg and Reagan Courville on a TEA thinning crew.

**MOTION** by Carole Lankford to approve the hire of Reagan Courville on a TEA thinning contract. Seconded by Dennis Clairmont. Carried, 6 for; 2 abstentions (Shelly Fyant and Myrna DuMontier).

**MOTION** by Anita Matt to approve the hire of Jacob Sandburg on a TEA thinning contract. Seconded by Carole Lankford. Carried, 6 for; 1 opposed (Myrna DuMontier); 1 abstention (Shelly Fyant).

**Brandon Burke**, Tribal Health Department, requested approval of the Mending Broken Hearts training. The cost of the facilitator contract is \$9,000. The training will be held next Monday through Wednesday and there will be 20 participants.

**MOTION** by Fred Matt to approve the facilitator agreement for Mending Broken Hearts. Seconded by Myrna DuMontier. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

**Janet Camel**, Economic Development Office, informed council that Allen Nygard wants to do a survey on values that guide their lives and trust, level of communication, and leadership, and he wants to send out a survey to tribal members living on the reservation who are aged 12+. Janet requested approval

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for the Enrollment Office to provide a mailing label for that category of tribal members. **Leonard Michel**, Tribal Member, was against surveying any tribal member minors under the age of 18.

**MOTION** by Anita Matt to approve mailing labels from Enrollment for tribal members living on the reservation that are aged 18+ to mail the survey to the membership. Seconded by Fred Matt. Carried, 7 for; 1 abstention (Carole Lankford).

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

**Council** met in **executive session** to conduct interviews for the Kootenai Culture Committee Director vacancy. **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 Kootenai Culture Committee Director vacancy. **Melanie Piedalue**, Personnel Department, was present for interviews.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**MOTION** by Len TwoTeeth to accept the results of the ballot and select Vernon Finley for the Kootenai Culture Committee Director position. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, 6 for; 2 abstentions (Myrna DuMontier and Shelly Fyant).

**Shelly Fyant** left the meeting for the remainder of the day.

**Art Caye**, Tribal Member; **Carolee Wenderoth**, Tribal Lands Department; **Carlene Wills**; and **Rick Eneas**, Financial Management; followed up on a land issue.

**MOTION** by Len TwoTeeth to show interest in the property at the asking price. Seconded by Dennis Clairmont. Carried, 4 for (Len TwoTeeth, Dennis Clairmont, Carole Lankford, and Fred Matt); 3 abstentions (Anita Matt, Myrna DuMontier and Ron Trahan).

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

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**MOTION** by Carole Lankford to adjourn the meeting.

Council **adjourned** at 6:00 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, April 30, 2019, at 9:00 a.m.

**CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES**

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Shelly R. Fyant  
Tribal Secretary