

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

Volume 21 Number 29
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: January 19, 2021
Approved: January 21, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Shelly Fyant, Chairwoman; 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.

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 Carole Lankford.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for January 14, 2021 were presented for approval.

MOTION by Ellie Bundy McLeod to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for January 14, 2021, with corrections. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

Martin Charlo joined the meeting.

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

MOTION by Anita Matt to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Fred Matt. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

Council met in **executive session**.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Jean Matt, Dale Nelson, Rob McDonald, Chelsea Kleinmeyer, and Ed Meece, Unified Command Team, gave an update. **Jean Matt** reported there are 180+ new cases. Chelsea has information going on the website. Rob has been putting public information in the Char-Koosta News. **Dale Nelson** has some masks coming in today. They are hi-tech laser 3-D masks of high quality. Dale will set

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up something with Rob to do a presentation on the 250 masks that were donated. An owner of the business lives in this area and wanted to make a donation to the CSKT. **Martin Charlo** reminded everyone to mask up, social distance, wash hands, and do what they can to stay safe. A video crew is filming today. A story is being done on the impacts of COVID-19. **Jean Matt** commented we will be transitioning into a new normal. The governor is setting out new mandates on February 1. Some of the mask mandates will transition with the new government. It is important to be aware of the new transition that is upon us and upcoming changes in the next couple of weeks and we need to think about what we are going to be doing in our own buildings. **Rob McDonald** continues to gather information to publish in the Char-Koosta News. **Len TwoTeeth** would like the Tribal Council to put out a statement acknowledging the fact that although the new governor is transitioning into a different mandate that masks will still be required within the boundaries of the CSKT lands. **Chairwoman Fyant** pointed out that the counties have the authority to keep the restrictions in place. Missoula County will not be removing those restrictions. She would like the UCC to take that to the county that it is not our wish to give up the ship at this point. It is said we will see worse times due to this new strain of virus. We have jurisdiction on our tribal buildings, and she would like to see stricter guidelines for local businesses. Shelly stopped frequenting those places because they do not follow the protocols. **Jean Matt** will follow up with Mark Clary. More detailed conversations with the county are needed. **Chairwoman Fyant** wants the county commissioners and tribal council included in that conversation.

Chelsea Kleinmeyer reported that Lake County has 1,845 confirmed cases. The Lake County Public Health Department has not updated the number of active cases, but it is around 90-100 cases. The vaccination efforts are well underway. The county and hospitals are vaccinating their frontline healthcare workers. THD has begun vaccinating elders aged 70 and older. As of this morning, they are at about 45% of the 70 and older population being vaccinated. That does not take into account those who declined the vaccine. The number of people declining this vaccine is low. She is expecting 200 doses to be delivered today. THD employees are calling the 70 and older population to get scheduled. The vaccination clinics will be at the Kwataqnuq Resort and the St. Ignatius community center gym on Friday and Monday. THD will plan for the next allocation next week. The prep mod that people would go in to request their appointments is not live yet, so that's why employees are calling the elders to get an appointment scheduled. They are trying to get all long-term care facilities done; that will increase vaccine availability to places like us who are starting on the Phase 1-B. The Native American population is included in the Phase 1-B category. The first week of February she anticipates the increased vaccine allocation. Educators are in Phase 1-C, but Native American educators would still fall into the Phase 1-B category. **Anita Matt** does not understand why they are wanting to open the schools until the educators get vaccinated. Chelsea advised that THD is following the emergency use authorization guidelines.

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People that got the vaccine will need to get their second dose after 28 days from that date. The state is holding our second dose, so Chelsea does not foresee any challenges in receiving the second dose allocation. The plan is to release all available doses. She will keep council updated. THD is being careful with the number of appointments that are scheduled. 20 doses will go to Hot Springs, and the team will work on those tomorrow and Thursday. They are calling individuals today to get a full schedule of appointments on Friday and Monday. The vaccine must be used within six hours of opening the vile, so they want to make sure the appointments are set up first. Moderna and Pfizer vaccines is what we are getting. THD has an ultra-cold freezer that will be used for the Pfizer vaccine. Tribal Health should get more allocation in February. Johnson & Johnson is a one-dose vaccine and THD has no information on that yet.

Johnathan Owens and **Chelsea Kleinmeyer**, Tribal Health Department, requested approval to transfer Mary Driscoll from a CHR Trainee to a CHR, which includes an increase in pay. Mary was hired to fill the Community Health Representative Trainee position and during the interview it was determined she had much more experience, so she was transferred from a TEA position to FTE status. Mary's application did not indicate all her experience; they had her submit a new application when she was hired as a trainee and she was qualified for a true CHR position. This rate of pay increase based on Mary's experience would fit with the rate of pay for others in that same position.

MOTION by Len TwoTeeth to approve the transfer of Mary Driscoll from the CHR Trainee to a CHR position with an increased rate of pay. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

Len TwoTeeth discussed the Reason to Live Native grant-funded position that is occupied by Dana Hewankorn. This position was housed at the clinic, but THD made some office moves and moved this person and now we are having issues about where Dana will be relocated. Len noted that this job has been valuable to the Elmo community and he mentioned to Mr. Owens to keep this office in the community if at all possible. One option discussed was the former Elmo Head Start building which has been vacant for years. It has water and mold problems that need to be addressed before it can be used. He asked if third party funds could be used to do those repairs to the building and then it could be a multi-use building for the membership. **Johnathan Owens** has his staff looking into this matter. The main problem is the flooring was ripped up already. Brian Crawford tested to make sure it was safe and is waiting for the results. They are checking for any issues due to the water leaks. The flooring would be the most expensive fix so long as it is safe. The Tribal Health staff is moving forward to renovate the building to get it usable again once they make sure the uses fit the funding requirements.

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

Constance Morigeau, Department of Human Resources Development, requested approval to hire Darcie Laud as a Home Care Provider for Roger McClure.

MOTION by Charmel Gillin to authorize the hire of Darcie Laud as a Home Care Provider for Roger McClure. Seconded by Ellie Bundy McLeod. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

Jean Matt, Mission Valley Power General Manager; and **Chuck Courville**, Mission Valley Power General Manager; presented the 2020 Annual Report. The report was approved by the Utility Board and is ready for Tribal Council approval. MVP has 72 employees, 5 board members and 6 consumer council members. The utility served 20,000 customers and 23,000 meters. 1,600 square miles is the service area served by the utility. There are kiosks in Hot Springs, Ronan and Arlee. The kiosk activity increased from 2019 to 2020. The number of pay by phone transactions increased substantially from 2016 to 2020. Red cards (final notice) delivered in 2016 totaled 1,200 and MVP delivered 415 red cards this year. The final notices were not mailed out as frequently as in the past years. MVP was created in 1988. 3,000 area lights were changed to LED lights, which is a huge savings to both the utility and the customer. MVP worked on the Jette Tower site for the communication tower. There was the cost of the equipment and MVP in-kind the labor, so it was a team effort. 468 work orders were accomplished. The Ronan substation was worked on. The national electric safety code is used. It is the code utilities across the nation use and the utility is in compliance with the code. MVP tested single phased meters, put in new transformers, and did a lot of tree trimming. The majority of outages last Wednesday was due to trees on the line. Wednesday's storm caused 57 outages. MVP restored power to most of the customers within 24 hours. With new meters going in this year, MVP is going to have a different visibility through the system of when people are out of power, so people do not need to call in and tell us, which is a leap forward in the utility world. It was perceived that due to the pandemic many people moved to this area, but MVP's number of new services do not indicate a big influx with people building new homes. There was a total of 221 new services, which is not a five-year high. MVP accomplished and met all those needs during that time. MVP had \$31 million in business last year and projects \$32 million this year. MVP is a nonprofit entity. The power price increases are passed on to the customers; they are not generated here to run the utility. Safety is the utility's highest goal. The safety manual received a review this year. The safety committee is comprised of union employees. Over the past six years, there has been a significant decrease in plant insurance and workers compensation insurance costs. MVP provides the lowest power costs in Montana. Jean discussed the low-cost block of power. It is currently 7.4 megawatts. The discussion for residential low-cost block of power is for the Tribal Council in September, when it is time to review that again. The increases

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for the dam are due to the consumer price index that is based on a mathematical formula.

MOTION by Anita Matt to accept the Mission Valley Power 2020 Annual Report. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

Rick Eneas, Financial Management; **Clayton Matt**, Tribal Services; **Renee Joachim**, Personnel Department; and **Rhonda Swaney**, Legal Department; requested to meet with council in **executive session**.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Rhonda Swaney and **Brian Upton**, Legal Department, requested clarification on housing uses at the Bison Range to continue use. One of those uses was for student interns that Amy Coffman arranged to staff the Visitors Center needs for this summer. Rent-free housing from May to October is provided as part of that arrangement for the interns. The other residence uses would be on a month-to-month basis. Brian wanted to make sure that was okay with the council. **Council** had no objection. The other issue is they have a contract with Pheasants Forever to do work for two to five years in the wetlands management district. That person will be here this week. He has been looking for housing and has not been able to secure any, so they want to house him at the bunk house for up to a month or so, until he is able to find housing. Amy wants to make sure that is okay with the council. **Council** had no objection to allowing that use of the bunk house. Brian informed council that the Refuge Manager will visit this week or next week and due to COVID that individual cannot access hotels, so Amy wants to be able to allow him use of the bunk house for a few days. Amy wants to know if these things need to be brought to council. Brian did not think so during the transition period, but he wanted to make sure to find out council's wishes. **Chairwoman Fyant** commented that they are authorized to continue normal operations during this transition time.

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

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

***** **Lunch** *****

Council **adjourned**, and is scheduled to meet again on Thursday, January 21, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Ellie Bundy McLeod
Tribal Council Secretary