

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

Volume 22 Number 52  
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: April 26, 2022  
Approved: April 28, 2022

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tom McDonald, Chairman; Len TwoTeeth, Vice-Chairman; Martin Charlo, Secretary; James “Bing” Matt; Jennifer Finley; Jim Malatare; Mike Dolson; and Anita Matt.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ellie Bundy McLeod, Treasurer (Missing & Unidentified Persons Conference Presentation – Las Vegas, Nevada); and Carole Lankford.

**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 9:02 a.m. Quorum established.

The meeting was opened with a **prayer** by Chairman McDonald

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for April 21, 2022 were presented for approval.

**MOTION** by Len TwoTeeth to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for April 21, 2022, with corrections. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, 6 for; 2 abstentions (Jim Malatare and Bing Matt).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

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

**Chairman McDonald** reminded council that tomorrow is the Administrative Professionals Day thank-you luncheon from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. The staff needs a headcount of how many council members plan on attending.

**Chairman McDonald** reminded council of the meeting with the Environmental Protection Agency at 3:00 p.m. tomorrow in the chambers meeting room. **Anita Matt** reported that all the railroad cars were moved from Moiese to Dixon Agency on Monday.

**Chairman McDonald** informed council that Bob Gauthier is volunteering to help raise funding for the Arlee Pow Wow Committee. They want to raise money from outside entities and establish a nonprofit entity for fundraising purposes. A memorandum of understanding is needed in order to do that. They want to start an endowment to fund the pow wow each year. **Len TwoTeeth** wants to see both pow wow committees work together on this. It would be beneficial for the Standing Arrow Pow Wow too. Len still supports funding from the Tribes for the pow wows. **Jennifer Finley** talked about a program called Amazon Smile. They will donate a percentage of an individual's purchase to the charity of their choice. Since the Tribes established a 501(c)3 there would be an opportunity for people shopping online to make a donation to that organization.

**Len TwoTeeth** informed council he met with a tribal member over the weekend. The individual was frustrated regarding some of the services she has been requesting. One complaint is the lack of response or staff returning phone calls. There were some simple requests she wanted to talk to staff about, but she never received a call back. The staff needs to start returning phone calls. **Chairman McDonald** agreed we need to be responsive to the membership.

**Renee Camel** and **Chuck Reese**, Information Technology, requested approval of a contract with Ronan Telephone Company for fiber construction at necessary locations. CSKT would own the fiber connection. The segments would include the Bison Range, Pablo Highway 93 from the Pablo Headquarters to Salish Kootenai Housing Authority and a lateral to the Elders location, the newly acquired bank building, S&K Holding, and the former People's Center. The cost of the contract is \$730,402.41, which would be paid for from ARPA funding and a Natural Resources Department funding source.

**MOTION** by Martin Charlo to approve the contract with Ronan Telephone Company in the amount of \$730,402.41 through September 1, 2022 for Moiese and Dixon Agency. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

**Lynn Ducharme** and **Les Evarts**, Natural Resources Department; and **Greg Spahr**, Financial Management; requested to meet with council in **executive session**.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**Jessica Larson** and **Frank Gustafson**, Built Environment/Outreach & Education, gave an update on the work done by the Namchak Foundation on the Namchak Retreat Ranch, including construction, permaculture, and land stewardship. The ranch contains 9,000 acres and is located outside of Hot Springs. It will be a place where people can study Buddhist practices in a retreat setting with the guidance of experienced teachers. The length of retreat will vary

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from week-long to multi-year. While in retreat, students will study with their teachers, practice meditation, and share a community. Construction of the main building will begin this month. It will provide 39 quarters for the teachers and those in retreat. There will be areas for dining, meetings, support staff offices, sleeping, and a central place for ceremonies and celebrations. A temple and several clusters of small retreat cabins will also be constructed. The Foundation will continue its land stewardship work and consolidate the ranch operations to the east side of Garcon Gulch Road. The facility will be heated and cooled with geothermal and solar. A laminate waste water system will be installed to eliminate nitrates from the septic system. There will be swales to collect rain water. There will be green houses and food processes in place so the ranch will be self-sustaining. They are interested in meeting with the Tribal Food Sovereignty Team. **Mike Dolson** asked about the capacity, the number of permanent residents and transient residents, interactions with the Hot Springs community, and will it be isolated to their own property or are they looking to have folks go on tribal property. Mike wants them to be respectful of tribal land. Jessica advised that all activities are limited to the ranch property. The onboarding communication will let the participants know the expectations, local culture, and the local history. Jessica would like the Tribes' feedback on the information that will be included. There will be up to 24 students and 6 staff members expected for retreats. The most transient population would be folks staying in retreat cabins. They anticipate those folks will stay for a week. The participants will reside and eat onsite. In the future, the temple will hold month-long retreats. Frank commented there will be very limited vehicle traffic; the participants will be transported by the staff so they will not be driving their own vehicles. The participants should not need to venture outside the boundaries of the ranch. The type of guests they are trying to attract and the purpose of the ranch should prevent those issues from happening, and the ranch staff will do its due diligence to prevent issues from occurring.

**Jeanne Christopher**, Early Childhood Service, requested approval to apply for grant funding from the Department of Health and Human Services for the Early Childhood Services Head Start/Early Head Start and Expansion cost-of-living adjustment and quality improvement funds in the amount of \$114,835.00. The breakdown is \$51,853.00 for Head Start, \$40,589.00 for Early Head Start, \$9,212.00 for Head Start quality improvement, and \$13,181.00 for quality improvement for Early Head Start. **Len TwoTeeth** was concerned about the salary for the Cooks, and he would like those increased in the future. **Chairman McDonald** would like the Tribes to look at having our own minimum wage across the board so there will be a livable wage applied to all tribal employees.

**MOTION** by Mike Dolson to approve by resolution submission of the application to the Department of Health and Human Services for the Early Childhood Services Head Start/Early Head Start and Expansion cost-of-living

adjustment and quality improvement funds in the amount of \$114,835.00. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, 8 for; 0 opposed; 0 not voting.

**RESOLUTION 22-095**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES FUNDING THE EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START AND EXPANSION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT FUNDS**

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

**WHEREAS**, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes are committed to improving the educational, training and employment opportunities of all children and families, and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribal Council has declared that the children of the Salish, Kootenai and Pend d'Oreille Tribes are our most valuable resource of the Flathead Indian Nation;

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Head Start has approved for grantees to receive funding for 2.28% Cost-of-living adjustment for employees of Early Childhood Services;

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Head Start has invested Quality Improvement funds to be used to increase the level of care and service provided to Early Childhood Services students and families;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes support the application submitted to the Department of Health and Human Services to increase the annual funding level with a Cost-of-living Adjustment for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Early Childhood Services Head Start/Early Head Start and Expansion program for the children of the Flathead Indian Reservation; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the application will be submitted for Quality Improvement Funds from the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Head Start; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the Tribal Council Chairman and/or his designated representative are authorized to negotiate and execute the grant documents and any amendments thereto.

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

**Dan Decker, Brian Upton, John Harrison, Chelsea Colwyn, Katie Jones, Lynsey Gaudioso, and Melissa Schlichting**, Legal Department; and **Shane Morigeau**, Deputy Executive Officer; requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters.

**Len TwoTeeth** out of the room.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**MOTION** by Mike Dolson to approve a sole source contract with Taylor Irvine to provide photography services at the Bison Range Celebration event. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (7 present – Len TwoTeeth out of the room).

It was the **consensus** of council for the Tribal Chairman to sign the memorandum of understanding with the Arlee Pow Wow Committee.

\*\*\*\*\* **Lunch** \*\*\*\*\*

**Mark Couture, Tara Irvine, Zanen Pitts, and George Ducharme**, Tribal Lands Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to hold a Land Committee meeting. **Aaron Jones** met with the council. **Brenda Richey** met with the council. **Art Caye** met with the council.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**MOTION** by Len TwoTeeth to show interest in the Minesinger parcel. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

**MOTION** by Len TwoTeeth to show interest in the Pablo West property. Seconded by Jim Malatare. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

**MOTION** by Anita Matt to go with option 1 and approve a modification to the Steve Dupuis business lease for Blue Bay and extend the term to 25 years and include tree removal. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

**MOTION** by Mike Dolson to approve the letters to allow APHIS to monitor and treat grasshoppers and Mormon crickets. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

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**MOTION** by Bing Matt to approve the call for 5,900 acres of aerial spray contracting for the BAER items. Seconded by Jim Malatare. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

**Anita Matt** thanked the Tribal Lands staff for all the work they have done at the Dixon Agency. Anita talked about an individual that was trying to sell her undivided interest in Allotment 3014-A in Perma. The person put in an application sometime ago and she requested that Mark follow up on it. Anita gave Mark the seller's name.

Council **adjourned** at 4:26 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Thursday, April 28, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

**CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES**

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Martin A. Charlo  
Tribal Council Secretary