

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

Volume 24 Number 17
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: December 14, 2023
Approved: December 19, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom McDonald, Chairman; Len TwoTeeth, Vice-Chairman; Martin Charlo, Secretary; Ellie Bundy, Treasurer; Mike Dolson; Jennifer Finley; Carole Lankford; and Jim Malatare.

MEMBERS ABSENT: James “Bing” Matt (Inter-Tribal Timber Council – Las Vegas, Nevada); and Terry Pitts (Inter-Tribal Agriculture Council – Las Vegas, Nevada).

OTHERS PRESENT: Jennifer Trahan, Tribal Council Support; 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 Len TwoTeeth.

Chairman McDonald left the meeting for the remainder of the day to be with his father.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for December 12, 2023 were presented for approval.

MOTION by Ellie Bundy to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for December 12, 2023, with corrections. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, 6 for; 1 abstention (Jennifer Finley).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

MOTION by Jim Malatare to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Jennifer Finley. Carried, unanimous (7 present).

Council met in **executive session**.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Council discussed the upcoming Christmas holiday.

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MOTION by Martin Charlo to give the employees Tuesday, December 26, 2023 off for the Christmas holiday. Seconded by Jim Malatare. Carried, unanimous (7 present).

Chauncey Means, Natural Resources Department, requested approval of a one-year noncompetitive contract with North Star Security in the amount of \$4,995.00 to provide security services at the NRD Administration Office in Polson. **Mike Dolson** did not have sufficient information to vote in favor of the request. **Council** requested additional information.

Tara Irvine, Tribal Lands Department, presented a request from Rose O'Bennick for a revocable permit for T4067 to utilize the old bowling alley as a plunge, snack bar, exercise room, and youth activity center for the community of Hot Springs.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to grant Rose O'Bennick a revocable permit for T4067 to utilize the old bowling alley as a plunge, snack bar, exercise room, and youth activity center for the community of Hot Springs. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, unanimous (7 present).

Tara Irvine, Tribal Lands Department, presented a request from Rose O'Bennick for a one-year revocable permit for T4067. Leroy used to have that lease for horses and Rose has taken it over. She would be required to pay a one-time annual payment of \$1,000 and provide proof of required insurance.

MOTION by Mike Dolson to grant Rose O'Bennick a one-year revocable permit for T4067. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (7 present).

Katie Miller and **Norrie Dusty Bull**, Contracts & Grants, joined the meeting to answer questions. **Chauncey Means** explained security services would be provided at the Administrative Building located at 301 Main Street and other facilities as directed; the hours will vary and include providing services at the Shoreline Protection Board Meetings; services will be provided on an as-needed basis Monday through Friday from the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The contract would expire on September 30, 2024. Katie stated it is a sole source contract and requires council action. **Rich Janssen** joined the discussion and informed council NRD is still waiting for the bulletproof glass to be installed. The Shoreline Protection Board held meetings and there had been some safety concerns. 114 individuals still have not paid their dock fees, and some of those folks will be meeting with the Board in January to discuss their fees. Security would be provided when needed, such as during board meetings and the summer months. Based on the snowpack, we may be in the same situation next year. The company would do an assessment on how to protect themselves. They will charge \$50 per hour on an as-needed basis and the \$4,995.00 is under the \$5,000.00

contract threshold according to the contracting guidelines. **Mike Dolson** requested that language be included in Attachment A.

MOTION by Mike Dolson to approve the noncompetitive contract with North Star Security in the amount of \$4,995.00 to provide security services on an as-needed basis through September 30, 2024. Seconded by Ellie Bundy. Carried, unanimous (7 present).

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

Miranda Burland, Tribal Education Department; **Mark Johnston**, Ronan School District 30 Superintendent; and **Jessica Johnson**, Ronan School District High School Vice-Principal; presented the 2022-2023 Annual Indian Education Report for the Ronan School District. Some of the positive things happening is the ESSA funding allowed the school to replace the boiler system with electric heat at the high school, fix the roofs, and build a Career Center. The school used to have two different Reading programs at the elementary school and students were taught two different ways, and once it was changed the reading scores improved. The school created the Character Strong program. There are some mental health struggles and there were not enough services being provided. The Character Strong program teaches kids the decisions they make can affect the rest of their lives and teaches them how to treat one another. The program has three different tiers. One of the challenges facing the school district is the struggle to hire or retain staff. The school district received \$12 million from three ESSA grants, and those grants will be sunsetting in September 2024. Mental Health Counselors are funded through those grants. Another issue is the loss of students. The school receives state funding based on enrollment, and since COVID the district has lost 60 students. The decreased student population count also affects the Impact Aid funding. Homeschooling contributes to the decreased student count. Cierra Jeppesen was hired as the Language Teacher and the school would like to hire a Kootenai Language Apprentice. The school does its best to teach culture and language and will be meeting with the Culture Committees. Although the school does not conduct pre-hire drug testing for staff, use of substances is not allowed and there is a School Resource Officer with appropriate training to identify substance use. **Jennifer Finley** mentioned her concerns regarding disparity and discipline for Native students across the board.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to accept the 2022-2023 Annual Indian Education Report for the Ronan School District. Seconded by Ellie Bundy. Carried, unanimous (7 present).

Miranda Burland introduced Sarah BigSam, who serves as an advocate for the Ronan, Charlo and Dixon School Districts.

Rick Eneas and **Gwen Lankford**, Tribal Executive Office; **Kate Boyd** and **Libby Addington**, Gecko Designs; and **Renee Camel**, Information Technologies; gave an update and presentation on their scope of work for the website designs for CSKT, Tribal Health Department, Three Chiefs, and the Bison Range. Gecko's goals were to reduce 20 sites to 4, shift away from the Joomla platform since it is no longer supported, establish consistent site structure, and improve the backend management. The scope of work was expanded to include media platforms to include photography and videography and establish a library of images for annual reports/presentation needs. Gecko is collecting the final revisions from the Tribal Health Department and pending a decision on HIPAA compliant forms. The estimated launch date is January 31, 2024. Gecko is importing content that was collected from departments and divisions for the CSKT site and the estimated launch date is March 30, 2024. The website design for Three Chiefs is with the Three Chiefs team for approval before the website development begins, and the estimated launch date is March 1, 2024. The Bison Range website is actively in development with a small amount of content items still needing to be collected, and the estimated launch date is March 1, 2024. The post-production editing for photography is underway for the CSKT gallery and the estimated timeline for deliverables is January 15, 2024. Filming for the videography successfully wrapped yesterday so post-production will begin and the estimated timeline for deliverables is February 28, 2024. **Jennifer Finley** requested information on when the projected started and the end date for completion. Rick responded that the project began last year. There was a 9-month discovery phase completed to develop the scope of work. Gecko was selected and the original target date was November 30. That was tied to when Joomla was sunsetting. Libby reported that Gecko pushed back the completion buildout dates. 3 out of 4 are actively in development. Three Chiefs was delayed due to the program moving to a new location. Jennifer wanted to know how much time Gwen dedicated to helping the programs throughout this project and if she helped departments write the content. Gwen gave an overview of her involvement in the process and her efforts in helping departments get their content submitted. Gwen did not help write the verbatim content, as it is more appropriate for the subject matter experts from each respective department and program to write the specific content, but she walked them through the process and provided any assistance as needed. Gwen worked intensively with some of the largest departments to create the templates used to develop and gather content. Gwen did write the content for the Tribal Health website. She audited the content submitted to make sure it was consistent. There were meetings with the programs and Gwen provided assistance to the programs. Jennifer did not understand why two different photographers were hired to take tribal council headshots when Gecko already had a contract to provide that service. She had to hire an independent photographer to take her Tribal Council picture to get a usable photo, and it is still not posted on the wall in the council chambers. Gecko showed council the Tribal Health website. **Len TwoTeeth** mentioned the

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importance of including Pend d'Oreille in the logo as much as possible. Gwen understands the importance of maintaining parity for each Tribe.

Lawrence Walchuk, Hot Springs Telephone Company, met with council for the annual tribal engagement as required by the FCC. The company will be celebrating its 89th anniversary in 2024. Telecommunications has become an ever-changing business environment with telephone, cable, mobile, and even satellite companies all competing to provide an array of similar services. The company purchases and installs equipment that becomes obsolete two years later. Technologies continues to advance so rapidly that they have to try to keep up with the demand. Hot Springs Telephone Company received support from the federal government called ACAM and is in the process of running fiber directly to their customers' homes.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to accept the Annual Report for the Hot Springs Telephone Company. Seconded by Ellie Bundy. Carried, unanimous (7 present).

Jay Preston, Larry Hall and Cynthia Preston, Access Montana, met with council for the annual tribal engagement as required by the FCC. The FCC requires them to interact with Tribes to confer on needs assessment and deployment planning, feasibility and sustainability planning, ensure marketing efforts are culturally appropriate and sensitive to tribal needs, comply with tribal rights-of-way processes, land use permitting and review processes, and ensure compliance with tribal business and licensing requirements. Jay gave an overview of the milestones from Access Montana's collaboration with CSKT. Prior to 2008, Ronan Telephone Company expanded fiber net to serve CSKT from Polson to St. Ignatius. From 2011-2017, Access Montana implemented Montana West Project that was funded by the Obama stimulus to expand connectivity. Access Montana contracted with CSKT to connect four tribal towers with fiber. In 2023, Access Montana extended fiber network from Ravalli to the Bison Range. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration created the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program and CSKT was awarded \$41.5 million. Access Montana would rather collaborate with CSKT instead of competing. Access Montana collaborated with the hospital and built \$25 million of infrastructure by combining their grants. **Len TwoTeeth** would be interested in the possibility of working collaboratively with Access Montana and could have the tribal staff look into the possibility.

MOTION by Ellie Bundy to accept the Annual Report for Access Montana. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (6 present – Mike Dolson out of the room).

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Lawrence Walchuk discussed the Bathhouse in Hot Springs. **Len TwoTeeth** advised there has been discussion about the Bathhouse and there will be some movement on that in the near future.

Council **adjourned** at 11:38 a.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, December 19, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Martin A. Charlo
Tribal Council Secretary