

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

Volume 23 Number 19
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: January 6, 2023
Approved: January 10, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom McDonald, Chairman; Martin Charlo, Secretary; Ellie Bundy, Treasurer; Mike Dolson; Jennifer Finley; Carole Lankford; Jim Malatare; James “Bing” Matt; and Terry Pitts.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Len TwoTeeth, Vice-Chairman (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 9:04 a.m. Quorum established.

The meeting was opened with a **prayer** by Stephen Smallsalmon.

Jordan Stasso sang a **flag song**.

Chairman McDonald welcomed everyone to the quarterly council meeting and announced flu shots are available today at the complex. The floor was opened for comments from the elders.

Stephen Smallsalmon stated his elders used to tell him to talk in Indian. He is a full-blood Pend d’Oreille. Nkwusm has been open for 20 years and Stephen has been teaching there for 19 years. He has no plans to retire and he is proud of the teachers that are teaching the language. They are trying to hold on to our reservation. The government is trying to edge us out and buy all this land and mountains. If we do not know our language or Indian ways the government will take everything away, and that scares him. We are lucky to have a reservation. We were all scared when it was 25 below zero. We were ready for that type of weather years ago. Every time he comes to council he talks about the medicine people and how they used to medicine us. He would go to the medicine man when he was sick; that is how things worked in the past. This is a new year. He has always been told to go to the council if he has a problem; they are the ones with the power. There needs to be a place for the people at the Long House. They need a place for The People’s Center. We need the white buffalo back here; we asked for it and they said we could have it, but we are still waiting. We need to do something right now; not wait until tomorrow. Nkwusm has been waiting two

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years for the basement to get fixed and they are still waiting, and it is becoming a joke. The fence around there should be fixed. Council approved it, and they are still waiting. All of us have waited 20 years to get the white buffalo back and we need it here. The elders should always be respected. The Tribal Council has the power to say get it done right now. It is a new year and Stephen is happy. Stephen sang a song. He used to go to the Quequesahs every New Year's to dance. Stephen joined the elders group years ago and there are only seven of them left. The road from Mission to Ronan was fixed. He cut wood for 31 years. That road used to be straight, but they changed it and he does not know why they cannot make it straight again. They were going to fix it for the turtles at Ninepipe, but that was just talk. Stephen had a bad year and he is happy to be alive. He used to go the Quequesahs, Incasholas, Durglos, and Woodcocks to dance. We used to be great hunters and we aren't anymore, but that is the way life is. Today is a new year. We have lost some great people. We lost Tony Incashola, Sr.; Tony ran the elders program for 20 years. Stephen thanked the council for the \$600.00 elders payment. He is always asking how old you must be to get that money. He wanted to know when we will get our \$2,000.00 payment. Stephen is over 80 years old, and his uncle told him he could say anything he wanted when he became an elder. Stephen misses Pat Pierre and Tony Incashola, Sr.

Jerry Nicolai stated there used to be 9 council members, but he understands that we will have another one soon. The executive board used to have five members. He asked if that is why they make all the decisions for the tribal council. If the council cannot make all the decisions for the programs and people we should have a recall of the council or dispose of the board. He asked if the executive board members have another full time job within the Tribes; if so, that is double dipping and the council should do something about that. Jerry talked about the funeral policy. His mother died in 1984 and after everything got settled he got a bill from the Tribes owing \$1,000. He talked about the Salazar settlement. \$146 million was disbursed for the reservation tribal members. \$74 million went to \$10,000 payments for tribal members and a lot of the tribal members were expecting \$20,000 but it turned out there was not enough money to pay \$20,000. The council gave \$60 million of it to Energy Keepers, Inc. and they paid \$30 million back, so that left \$16 million for the Tribes' rainy day program. Every day it rains for some tribal members. There is \$46 million in their rainy day account now and it is still raining and snowing for the membership and is getting cold. Jerry gets most of his facts from the Char-Koosta so he knows the council should know what's going on, but yet they dump it off on the executive board and they make two or three times more than the council and they are making some poor decisions.

Nancy Brown expressed her concerns on some issues. Years ago, she was an activist for our people. She read in the paper that the representative from District 80 is questioning sovereignty issues. She is glad he is questioning it because she

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questions it too. When our young girls get pregnant and get on drugs, we need to get a plan in order to help those unborn babies. They need to be put in a safe place. We should use our sovereignty to do that. We need to work together to help those unborn babies. If we are truly a sovereign nation and with all the negative comments and wishes of the people out there, maybe it is time to put up the gates at the entrances of our land and have our checkpoints checking why they are coming here and check their vehicles for drugs. We need to stop this. She thought we fought the battle in the 1950s and 1960s, but it is still going on and we are still here. Nancy's relative from Northern Cheyenne mentioned a man that said something and then said it was funny, but it wasn't funny. She does not know if it is racism, but it is time we speak up about it. Nancy did a study on retrocession. She determined if the Tribes had concurrent jurisdiction we would live in a police state, and that is exactly where we are at now. We need to give it up and go back to BIA and FBI. Their presence may curtail the druggies. There are bad policemen and FBI, but there a lot of ones that are worse. If the county does not want to handle it we shouldn't hand it over to the state. It would be good to have an FBI presence here.

Laurence Kenmille commented we talk about retrocession by Lake County. It's ironic, considering they fought us from day one when we wanted to rescind it and go back to BIA and now they are finally saying they can't afford it and want to give it up. When we were negotiating taking back our law and order they fought us on that. We talked about some good things but they fought us from day one and we were being responsible and taking that effort and relieving them of their responsibilities, but now they want us to assist them to get money from the state. The county commissioners are always against us; they don't have any faith in us responding in a responsible manner. Even if we wanted to retrocede on Public Law 280 they would still fight us. The elders that are 65 on the date of the distribution will get the elders payment. That matches the Social Security program. The incentive payment will be disbursed on January 20, 2023. It will be made in one payment.

Carole Lankford joined the meeting.

The floor was opened for the Tribal Council members to address the membership.

Terry Pitts appreciated the words from the elders. He thanked the drum group. The impact of the loss of Anita Matt is being felt and she is still being missed. Brandy Bigby and Kayleen Howard were selected and honored at the Indian Agriculture Council conference. They led the procession carrying the tribal flag and a picture of Anita to honor her. A plaque was made and placed at the Anita Matt Building in Dixon for her efforts to improve the location and community wellness. We got a basketball court and some benches at the Dixon Agency. Terry hopes the improved court will be called the Elmer "Sonny" Morigeau Court. The council strives to improve services and evaluate their efficiency. The Tribes

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have had important events, such as going to Helena about acquiring Big Medicine. CSKT now owns Big Medicine and will soon have him back where he rightfully belongs. The grizzly bear track bridge dedication was an important event. Food sovereignty will help our people as the cost of living and food continues to increase and impact many of us. We need to improve the tribal members' ability to be self-reliant. Terry supports the Food Sovereignty program and supports setting up gardens. The council has been talking about having a meat processing facility. With elk and deer causing depredation, this facility would serve well and be helpful to the membership. We need to increase our ability to care for our members.

Mike Dolson thanked Stephen, Jerry, and Nancy for their words. It is good to hear the heart of the Tribes by hearing the drum. He reminded everyone he holds district meetings the last Friday of the month at the Senior Center in Hot Springs. Mike can be reached at 406-880-5524 if the membership wants to speak to him. We need to support the children pursuing their education in this environment that's attacking our kids. They need support and assistance. The Indian Education Committees and Tribal Education Committees need support. Bull trout and salmon are being restored throughout the Columbia Basin. The staples of our people have been attacked throughout the years and we are working to get those back. We are preparing for what will happen in the Montana and United States legislature and what attacks will be made so we can be prepared for those things.

Jennifer Finley wished everyone a happy new year. There are people that were on earth a year ago that are not here now. We have had our hearts, spirits, and Tribes tested. The council is honoring people who work for the Tribes with over 40 years of service and who have retired. Jennifer was raised on tribal dollars for her housing, clothing and food. She is wrapping up her first year on council and she has learned a lot. A question she always asks is if we are improving services for the Tribes and, if not, then do it differently. There are things that can be better, but it takes a while because we are a huge government. We are working to make things better for our people. If people don't see the change right away, be assured they really are working to make things better. She knows the importance of doing something for drug babies and how to improve services to those in the most need. Last quarter the council had another field trip to Primm Meadow. She got emotional while she was there; some of those trees are over 400 years old and have been touched by our ancestors and are sacred places. Not everyone is against us; some people care about us and what we can do and those partnerships and allies are important. Jordan Thompson and Jennifer went to the National Congress of American Indians annual conference. She is grateful to Jordan. Jennifer was elected as the Regional President. CSKT has the Bison Range under its control and had visits from the Department of the Interior and the Secretary of Education. We have had some big challenges to our sovereignty and our right to exist as a people. Jennifer prays in the coming year for strength

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for our hearts for those who have sick family members that we be strong and be grateful for the partnerships we have to do our work.

Jim Malatare thanked the drum; the drum makes him feel good. It is important what the elders have to say and he was happy to see the membership here. He thanked Stephen and Nkwusm for all they do. It is amazing to watch those kids learn. Jim has several great grandchildren that go to Nkwusm. Jim has happy to see Nancy here today. What she was talking about is really an important issue for us as we carry on. He is thinking about the best way to work on that issue. The Tribes need to push more for our sovereignty. The drug issue that was mentioned is very important to him. Jim is working with the council to try to figure out a way to work on the problem within our boundaries. We are working on it and haven't let it go. Our law enforcement is doing a great job. We need to talk about room in the jails so we can hold them in jail. We have all worked together on all these issues that face the Tribes. Jim appreciates being here and he thanked the membership for being here today.

Ellie Bundy was happy to see everyone here today. She appreciated the song, the prayer, and the elders who spoke up and shared with us. She assured them we hear them. Ellie thanked her council peers; it has been an honor to work with them. We have been through a lot, especially with the loss of Anita Matt. We have had successful negotiations with the Montana Historical Society for Big Medicine and Missoula County for the Beartracks Bridge. We will work hard and keep in mind we work for the membership. National Law Enforcement Day is January 9. We have several officers in the room and Ellie asked people to thank them. Ellie acknowledged the law enforcement staff. Ellie recognizes their work is demanding and often unappreciated; she thanked them for their dedication to the community. Ellie attended the Trafficking Symposium and did a presentation at the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Symposium at the White House. She went to a strategic planning session with the Salish Kootenai Housing Authority and also attended the National American Housing Legal Symposium. Ellie serves on the Montana Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Task Force and testified on one of four bills so far, such as an interim study on missing youth, funding for the Task Force for two years, and ask for a resolution to fund law enforcement in Indian country. Fentanyl is an epidemic. Law enforcement is working hard to get it off the streets. We must all do what we can do to address it. We need it reported if people are selling the drug. They are killing our people. We must be educated on what is happening in the communities. We need to have treatment options. Ellie is proud of those who are sober. She thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve them and wished everyone a happy new year and good health and happiness in 2023.

Bing Matt thanked everyone for being here, the drum group, and Stephen for his words. We talk a lot about the drugs and the importance of the Drug Task Force. He thanked them for what they do and for confiscating the number of

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fentanyl tablets they get in drug busts. He commends them for the job they do. It is a dangerous job. We are losing our people to these drugs. CSKT had a meeting with the Montana Historical Society and will be getting Big Medicine back. We are looking where to put him when he is returned. Bing and Tom went to West Yellowstone for an IBMP meeting about the winter operations program and to come up with a plan for this year, but they are still working off last year's plan. Bison are being taken. Some tribal members got some bison. Bing hopes we will get more bison for our people from the ship to slaughter program. Jerry mentioned the Salazar money. Bing brought that up a month ago and asked about it to see when and if those funds will go back to this budget for the people. The council can ask for that to come back. He wants to follow up and see if we can get that money back to give it to the tribal members. Some of that money was used for the dam and Gaming took some of it for the Gray Wolf Peak Casino. Hopefully, down the road we get this thing back on its feet and get these funds that were taken from the people for the dam. Nancy talked about the county wanting to give it back to BIA. With all the things we have been through with the county and state it would be nice to get that back. Bing does not know what it will take to get it back to be part of that again. Laurene talked about Public Law 280 and the council is working on that and hopefully we can get it worked out so we can take it over again and not have to work with the county and deal with their complaints. That all takes time. Bing thanked everyone for being here. He was glad to hear what the elders had to talk about.

Martin Charlo has been doing the things we do in January down in Arlee. He thanked Stephen for his song and he thanked the membership for being here. Martin acknowledged the drummers Jordan Stasso and Walden Tewawina. We are nothing without the membership and he appreciates their opinions. The distribution should come out on or about January 20. Over the last two years Martin has been thanking the Tribal Health Department and medical people that helped us through the pandemic. It is becoming a permanent thing like the flu. Martin thanked the maintenance workers and those who come in day in and day out to fix our buildings and plow the snow. Martin thanked the Police Department for all they do. The more we acknowledge the problem, the quicker we will solve it. This time of year is important to our people. Martin thanked the Kootenai Culture Committee and Salish Pend d'Oreille Culture Committee for doing their dances, the individuals, families, and community that have been putting on their medicine doings and lodges right now. Our culture defines us and makes us who we are. We have been blessed to have a rich culture. There has been a loss of our culture and language. Stephen mentioned the blue jays and blanket men that are hiding right now because we don't know how to speak to them, so our language, songs, and the things we are doing this month are important and he encouraged everyone to take part and go sweat and learn and use the language. We are nothing without our language and culture. Our language programs are starting to thrive. We are trying to provide a livable wage to learn our language. The Tribes took steps to retrocede from Public Law 280,

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so we have that in our back pocket. The county has not consulted with us. That process is something they must follow. This is the month we are not supposed to talk a lot; it is a time to listen. Martin thanked Jordan Thompson for being here today. The council is aware of the deficiencies in the reorganization and they are doing their best to make improvements. They are working to do better. The elders are our bosses and he holds them in high esteem. If the council does not do a good job, the elders need to let them know. Martin is proud to be here and he holds this position in the highest esteem. Council works for the membership. Sovereignty is something that is thrown around a lot, but we are not truly sovereign because we rely on federal funds. Some actions being taken is to stop relying on grant funds and federal funds that tell us how to spend the money. The tribal corporation funds are the money we can do whatever we want to with. At times it looks like the council is not doing anything, but they are looking to improve things for a long time in the future. Martin did not work here during the Salazar settlement, but the council did the best they could for our people. Martin prays for a good year. He appreciates being able to sit here and learn from the elders that know the songs. The cultural events are growing and the young people are learning the songs. Balancing a career with culture is a juggling act but that is the world we live in now. We continue to be leaders and will fight for tribal rights. Questioning sovereignty is at the federal and Supreme Court level. There is an Indian Child Welfare Act case that fights against our sovereignty.

Carole Lankford apologized for arriving late to today's meeting. She has a grandson that had a program so that is why she was late. She was in a car accident yesterday and is thankful for airbags. Carole wanted to make sure she made it to today's meeting. Jerry Nicolai is a good friend of hers and it was good to see him. She was glad to see Nancy Brown here and she appreciates Stephen. The council is going through some things with the reorganization and are working hard to figure it out. The council needs to make sure the reorganization is working for the people they represent. She asked the membership to give them time. The executive staff has ideas to continue to keep the staff involved and make sure the department heads will have the opportunity to work. Departments will continue to work and make decisions for their departments. She thinks there is a lot of crazy in the world. If we take back jurisdiction and take it on, we would form a program like we did in self-governance to meet the needs of our people. We would take these people back and build a program that wouldn't just imprison them but get them the help they need. The Tribal Health Department tries to serve people, but they cannot find beds to get them into. Patricia Hibbeler is working with the Montana Healthcare Network. They hired a consultant to develop a treatment center in Montana and Wyoming to support all the tribes, so those things are in the works. Some our departments work as a silo, so we need to make sure they work together. If someone gets evicted from housing, the Salish Kootenai Housing Authority needs to help the Tribes take the next steps to get them in a home. Carole appreciates being on the council and she

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appreciates her colleagues. They are great to work with and want to get things accomplished for our people. It's about the people. Carole appreciates the work done by the chairman.

Chairman McDonald informed the membership that Len TwoTeeth had a crisis at his home with his water so that is why he is not here today. Tom thanked everyone for being here today. He was thankful for the song, prayer, elders, staff, and his colleagues. Tom recognized our leaders with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Shane Hendrickson was hired as the new Superintendent. Craig Adams served as the Acting Superintendent and Chairman McDonald thanked him for what he did. It is good to have a local superintendent. Tom is looking forward to working with Shane. The Tribes have been preparing for the state legislature. There is some jeopardy about opening big game hunting on the reservation and we are trying to kill it in committee. There is a crazy guy from Kalispell that has a draft bill on why reservations are still in existence. That is an insult and is racist, and he plans to mention that during the state legislature reception. That is unacceptable. They will do their best to make sure that craziness isn't out there. Many people have talked about the reorganization. Our government has changed from when Tom started working for here full time in 1982. It is a complex organization and structure, and it needs a lot of supervision and attention. The council will make sure the Tribes put out the best services to the membership, protect our landscape, and have things for future generations. They will look at the structure and reframe it the best they can. It is the most important thing for workers that do such a good job and take ownership in their job and are part of a team and put forward 110% and know how to work hard. We want to make sure we have those role models as we move forward; that is how we will be successful. We are only as strong as our weakest link in the organization. Chairman McDonald talked about Big Medicine being restored to the CSKT ownership by the Montana Historical Society. That was a powerful day. The Beartracks Bridge dedication was a great partnership with Missoula. The Tribes are here forever and will make it the place the best we can for us and our visitors. CSKT supports the Charles M. Russell Refuge for restoring buffalo. The Tribes are trying to look at properties, how to expand our corporations, how to improve functions for housing, homelessness, and the healthcare things before us. The Council works on those daily. They would love to buy the entire reservation back, but the Tribes are stifled by limited funds. Our money comes from our corporations, and they have been charged to bring in as much revenue as possible to provide additional government services that are needed. The council members know it is raining every day and storming every day, and we need money to address that. The water compact has a large block of money sitting there. We convinced the Department of the Interior to fund that right away, which was a critical win for our Tribes by getting it in one chunk. Tom thanked everyone for their efforts in that. The legislature needs to fund their share of the water compact. The state needs to pay its debt. They have a surplus of money. They should pay off their debt before starting new programs. Tom thanked his

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colleagues and his family for supporting him. He has learned a lot. He just finished his first year in this position. Chairman McDonald thanked the language program. Protecting our language is a critical component for us.

Council acknowledged the following employees that have recently retired: Philip Paul (09/13/2022), Calvin Tanner (11/12/2022), Florence Gehring (10/17/2022), and Lester Clairmont (12/8/2022).

Council acknowledged the following employees that have 40 or more years of tribal government service: Peggy Haggard, James Finley, Darwin Parker, George McLeod, Curtis Acevedo, Charlene Petet, Ken Clairmont, Mary Billedeaux, Cheryl Morigeau, George Ducharme, John Currie, Carole Lankford, Kim Azure, Rose Pierre, David Morigeau, Jeanne Christopher, Carla Tanner, Kermit Clary, Lester Clairmont, Eva Anderson, Patricia Clairmont, James Auld, John Wheeler, Kathleen Smith, Roberta Decker, Dorothy Frost, Geraldine Linsebigler, and Tom McDonald, and Bev Hill.

The following individuals were honored:

Lester Clairmont. Craige Couture spoke about Lester's career. Les was sworn in as a police officer in 1978 and has been a big part of the success of Law & Order. Two of our judges and the sheriff of Lake County were hired and mentored by Les.

Bob McCrea. Ron Swaney spoke about Bob's career. Mr. McCrea worked for the Tribes over 50 years. He was a hotshot and a smokejumper in his rookie season, and nobody else in the world has ever done that before. He is dedicated to his job and is a strong leader. Tony Incashola, Jr. stated Bob built their program. Bob always talked about safety and made sure everyone came home safely. He coordinated the program and built relationships for us nationally. We are able to do what we do because of the relationships Bob built. Bob showed the staff how to be a leader. Tony has learned a lot from Bob. Chairman McDonald stated Bob influenced him to become a smokejumper and was a role model for him.

Flo Gehring. Ron Swaney spoke about Flo's career. She worked for Forestry & the Division of Fire for 40+ years. Flo always came to work with a smile and did her job without being told to do it. Flo was an excellent employee and she was always helpful and professional. Chairman McDonald commented that Flo was a good role model for customer service.

Calvin Tanner. Calvin had a long career with the Tribes and Chairman McDonald worked with Calvin many times. Calvin was able to grab and throw a 40-foot log from a backhoe. He went into private business. Calvin has always been a hard worker that people could learn from. Calvin was unable to be here

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today, so Alyssa Kelly accepted the gift on his behalf. She stated her uncle Calvin is a hard worker, a kind person, and is always there for his family and the community. She was glad the Tribes recognized him for his strong work ethic.

SK Rossi and Kylie Gursky. SK & Kylie were acknowledged for their pay-it-forward gift to the CSKT. Shane Morigeau went to law school with SK Rossi. The more Shane worked with SK in Helena, he learned they are both very special people. They sold their home in Missoula and made a profit. They benefited off our Indian lands while living in the community and wanted to give back for the wrongdoings in the history of the Tribes. Shane thanked them for their kind and generous donation.

Council thanked all the honorees. Jordan Stasso sang an **honor song**.

Chairman McDonald reminded the audience that flu shots, booster shots, shingle shots, and Food Sovereignty food distribution boxes are available in the lobby today.

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

Bing Matt left the meeting for the remainder of the day.

Jordan Thompson, Tribal Executive Office, announced there are some food distribution boxes and \$25 gift cards available to the membership today. The distributions will occur on January 10 in Dixon (morning) and St. Ignatius (afternoon), January 11 in Polson, and January 12 in Pablo.

Jordan Thompson, Tribal Executive Office; and **Lynsey Gaudio**, Legal Department; gave an overview on the history of Public Law 280, which is a termination era law passed in 1953 that gave jurisdiction on reservations to states. It provided for five mandatory PL 280 states, and a sixth was added later; and provided that other states could choose to assume jurisdiction (amended in 1968 to require tribal consent). In 1963, Montana passed a law assuming criminal jurisdiction over Indians and Indian territory of the Flathead Indian Reservation and country within the state. CSKT uniquely among the tribes in Montana, decided it did want to opt in to PL 280. After 30 years, in 1993, the Tribes retroceded from the State's misdemeanor jurisdiction. The Tribes currently have exclusive misdemeanor jurisdiction over CSKT tribal members and members from other tribes. The Tribes have concurrent jurisdiction with the State over felonies committed by CSKT tribal members and members of other tribes prosecuted by the appropriate county. In 2016, the Lake County Commissioners passed a resolution of intent to withdraw from PL 280. In the 2017 Montana legislative session legislation was introduced to reimburse Lake County for PL 280 costs or that the county would seek full PL 280 retrocession. This bill failed. CSKT introduced its own bill that would allow the Tribes to

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initiate PL 280 retrocession, which was passed in the Montana State legislature and signed by Governor Bullock on May 19, 2017. This law permits the Tribes to withdraw consent to be subject to the criminal jurisdiction of the state of Montana. Representative Read introduced HB 656 during the 2021 legislative session. In July 2022, Lake County filed a lawsuit against the state for law enforcement services due to the implementation of PL 280 and damages for past costs. On December 12, 2022, Lake County passed a resolution of intent to withdraw from PL 280, and then the county passed a final resolution to withdraw from PL 280 on January 3, 2023, to be effective May 26, 2023, unless vacated prior to that date. Jordan and Lynsey answered questions from the audience.

Rick Eneas, Tribal Executive Officer; **Brian Lipscomb**, Energy Keepers, Inc.; and **Teresa Wall-McDonald**, Mission Valley Power Utility Board Chairwoman; gave an update on the Mission Valley Power rate increase. Although there was an increase in electricity rates, Mission Valley Power still has one of the lowest rates in the region. It is a breakeven utility and is not for profit. A subsidy was provided to all customers. The discussion whether to continue that subsidy has been discussed by the council each year since they took over the dam. The subsidy was coming from EKI, which is a for profit company. The increase in revenue for this year to sell the power at wholesale market rates that was not subsidized to MVP would generate \$4 million per year. EKI is on track to meet or exceed that amount of revenue. It would cost the Tribes nearly 20M+ to continue that subsidy. When the council gave their blessing on making the change it was not a blanket decision; EKI was asked to specifically track additional income that was generated from the power that had previously been supplied and was at the heart of the subsidy and all that income is specifically dedicated to coming back to the Tribes, and at this point there are a handful of initiatives the council plans to use it for that are focused on helping our elder population. The Tribal Council wants to provide energy assistance to all tribal elders aged 60+ and there is not a specific amount set yet. The funding could be used for home repairs (energy efficient and handicap retrofits); provide increased services (wood, yard services such as gardening and lawnmowing), gravel for roadways, and additional snowplowing to include sanding and shoveling of walks; and additional maintenance staff. When they get a clear picture, it will be a continuing discussion with the council in terms of if there is more funding allocated or more services added to the list. They are specifically taking a portion of EKI's earnings and dedicating it to a specific service area.

The floor was opened for comments from the membership.

Sam Barnaby talked about the Kootenai blood. He feels we have let them down. There is talk about Mission Valley Power and all the revenue that should be coming in, but yet we fail to take care of our own. He thinks about Pat Pierre. We should not even be paying for our power since we acquired the dam. It makes him sad. We have all these programs, departments, and department heads that

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take ownership of the money like it's their own instead of the membership's. We made progress when we elected Jennifer, Jim, and Tom, and got rid of a chaotic situation. Sam is happy we still have a voice. Sam plans to run for council for the at-large seat. If Bing Matt decides not to run for office again, Sam asked him to have his supporters back Sam so he can get elected. The Salazar settlement funds belong to the membership and it was robbed from them. Sam asked the council members if they are representing themselves or the people. He recommended getting rid of the Tribal Executive Officer position and having the council take back their power. Sam was told by a council member that they don't even have department head meetings anymore and the Tribal Executive Officer makes all the decisions. Sam stated he speaks these harsh words because he wants what is best for the Tribes. The tribal members that have left the reservation need to be supported and heard.

Gene Lozeau talked about Public Law 280 and asked the council to initiate steps to withdraw from it, or else we will have a front seat to watch Lake County ask to be funded. He thought their presentation was done well, but it was harsh when the Tribes wanted to retrocede. Gene does not see any opposition if the Tribes did that since Lake County wants to withdraw. Jordan's presentation was good, but the future needs to be included in that discussion. Gene appreciates Mike holding monthly district meetings. He can bring the presentation to educate people on PL 280, but there needs to be discussion about what happens after that. Everyone has to deal with stress and the ups and downs of life, and he thanked the council.

Teresa Wall-McDonald wanted to identify an option for the council to consider. She worked at Salish Kootenai College for 11 months. One of the best things about SKC is they offer employees the choice of insurance plans. The employees were given information on the plans and were given 22 choices of plans. They had 6 plans that did not require employees to pay a share. The CSKT plans require employees to pay a portion of the premium. Through the employee health benefit program that CSKT and SKC uses, a certain amount of plans can be offered without any cost to the employee. There are struggles with mental health and addiction and having insurance gives people an opportunity to develop a relationship with a healthcare provider. If people have insurance and decide to use the Tribal Health Department as their primary care provider, the department will have more money to provide services. Teresa encouraged the council to add at least six plans that require no employee contribution during the budget process. It is an employee retention incentive, as well.

Liz Dempsey spoke about her father Jim Dempsey. He was grateful to receive that \$600 payment. Her father is 66 years old and it was hard for him to find work on the reservation so he had to find work off the reservation. He was a substance abuse counselor. **Council** stated her father can apply for assistance through the Elders program.

The floor was opened for closing comments from the council members.

Martin Charlo announced his father will be 85 on January 8 and he wished him a happy birthday.

Jennifer Finley reminded everyone if they were lucky enough to have had any cultural knowledge handed down to them to please share it freely for anyone they can. We all have something to contribute and to help each other. **Nancy Brown** thanked Jennifer for that encouragement. Her grandfather was an interpreter for the Tribes. He died when she was four years old so she didn't know him very well. Her mother needed open heart surgery so Nancy took her to Seattle. They got over there and her mother had an infection. The surgeon said the infection had to be cleared up before they could do the surgery. At that time Nancy still had six brothers and none of them could take off. Nancy went back a week later and the doctor said her mother was not ready mentally. The doctor put her in the hospital here, and then Nancy took her back to Seattle. Nancy did not make any housing arrangements so she stayed in the waiting area. Two nurses grabbed Nancy and told her to go in there because something was going on after the surgery. Her mother was speaking fluent Salish. None of the children knew she could speak Salish. Nancy told her mother about speaking Salish and her mother said she couldn't speak the language and she was prohibited to speak the language at boarding school. The historic trauma is a fact and we need to help each other to get over that. Nancy went through a subtle racist comment and her sugar went up and it made her upset. Subtle racism happens to us daily. Nancy thanked the council for all they do; she appreciates them all.

Chairman McDonald thanked the food preparers for providing breakfast this morning. He prays for a good year ahead.

Shirley Trahan helped prepare the breakfast today. If people know their culture and language they should teach it. Many people lived the culture. Tribal members went to school where they could not speak their language or live their culture. Parents protected their children by not teaching them the language or culture. They are doing their best and are not giving up on the language and culture; we need to use it more. The Culture Committee does a lot of work. They have books for kids, flashcards, videos, and classes. Shirley is happy to be a part of that. She grew up learning the language and living the culture. Her nieces and nephews look to her for the language and culture and she does what she can. Shirley is there for everybody; not just her family. She tells everyone not to give up; they need to keep on searching for it and keep living it. The Culture Committee works as a team and works well together.

The closing **prayer** was offered by Shirley Trahan.

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes
January 6, 2023

Council **adjourned** at 1:48 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Martin A. Charlo
Tribal Council Secretary