

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

Volume 23 Number 53
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: June 8, 2023
Approved: June 13, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Len TwoTeeth, Vice-Chairman; Martin Charlo, Secretary; Ellie Bundy, Treasurer; Mike Dolson; Carole Lankford; Jim Malatare; James “Bing” Matt; and Terry Pitts.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tom McDonald, Chairman (Personal Time Off); and Jennifer Finley (National Congress of American Indians Conference – Minneapolis, MN).

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 Len TwoTeeth.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for June 6, 2023 were presented for approval. **Len TwoTeeth** gave an update on the request from a tribal member for a policy waiver for a background check. Because of the circumstances and issues we are dealing with, it was unadvisable to waive the policy, so they are looking at other options to see if they can do a temporary relocation for the individual in another position until the background check is completed.

MOTION by Mike Dolson to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for June 6, 2023, with corrections. Seconded by Jim Malatare. Carried, 7 for; 1 abstention (Bing Matt).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

MOTION by Mike Dolson to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Ellie Bundy. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

Leonard Michel, Elmo Celebration Committee, informed council that the maintenance building has not had electricity for two and a half months, which makes it difficult for the staff to do their job. Mission Valley Power told Leonard that the problem goes from the meter to the shop and there is no reason to dig

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it up. MVP has a list of 20 electricians. Leonard requested approval to use the stick game arbor as is. Leonard spoke to Rick and Mr. Michel does understand the liability the Tribes need to look at, but it has been like that for five years and they keep telling the community they cannot use it. Rick Eneas, Tribal Executive Officer; and John Neiss, Facilities Maintenance; joined the meeting. Leonard does not believe it will fall down during the pow wow. **Len TwoTeeth** thought the plan was to demo the pavilion and use a tent. **Rick Eneas** advised that was the plan. SKMM has reached out to get some quotes and they have one quote so far. Rick's main concern was timing and he was under the impression there would not be a problem to have it done prior to the pow wow. Len was concerned that the pow wow is in four weeks and they still need to seek out other quotes; they should have already started working on it by now. **Terry Pitts** recommended having a contractor brace it up the best they can so it can be used for the pow wow. **Leonard Michel** commented that the tent was too small for all the participants. He was concerned about the Tribal Council not listening to or helping the community. Rick was going to check with the insurance company, but his concern is that it may be an issue since the experts advised it is a liability risk. **Len TwoTeeth** suggested looking closely at making decisions about putting the community at risk and he agreed the pavilion should have been fixed right after it happened. **Bing Matt** asked John if they could shore up the two posts. **John Neiss** advised it is all of the posts, not just two of them. The contractor poured the posts in concrete and they are rotting and sinking and getting crushed. Facilities Maintenance started addressing the problem right after it happened, but it was during COVID-19 and the engineers were not working. John had asked for an engineer report right away, but it took a while since nobody was working. The structure has had a lot of movement in the past six months. They have done what they could as quickly as they could, but part of the issue was the engineer report and the cost. The bid to demo the structure came in at \$200,000+ so SKMM was soliciting more contractors. **Len TwoTeeth** wants to see where we are at in two weeks. If nothing has happened, then he wants to revisit the matter. **Council** will request an update from SKMM at the next chairman's meeting. **Martin Charlo** recommended ordering two tents if space is an issue. Rick is looking into purchasing tents. Len told Leonard there will be a meeting on a pow wow update next Monday, and he will notify Leonard what time it will be so he can join.

Len TwoTeeth informed John that the Elmo maintenance building has been without electricity for over two months and they need it fixed as soon as possible. **John Neiss** informed council that an electrician was engaged right away and there is a break in the wire between the pole and the building so a digger was hired and he has been waiting on the excavator. **Rick Eneas** can see if another program can assist with a backhoe. The contract will need to be adjusted since we are paying the electrician to provide that service. **Council** requested an update next week.

Martin Charlo has been receiving some complaints about the tribal flags on tribal buildings. If we are not going to take care of them, we should take them down. If the flags are up 24/7 then they need to be lit. The flag at the Maintenance building is just flying in the wind. **John Neiss** will follow up. It would help the Facilities Maintenance staff if the programs would submit work orders so the department is aware of what maintenance issues need to be addressed.

Len TwoTeeth met with the Roads staff two years ago about trying to improve the access road into the Elmo maintenance facility. Len requested that the staff find a solution. The road probably needs to be put on the BIA road inventory. The road needs to be paved. Every spring the staff have the same problems battling to get to the building when it rains. **John Neiss** advised the Roads Department was going to come in from the lake side. It went through the Tribal Lands Department and George said it was a money issue and the landowner did not want to give up the easement. **Rick Eneas** will ask Scott to give an update on whether it has been added to the inventory.

Randy Ashley, Natural Resources Department, requested approval to apply for a noncompetitive Climate Pollution Reduction Grant from the Environmental Protection Agency in the amount of \$500,000.00. There are weekly meetings with EPA. It is a planning grant and will provide funding to hire one FTE for up to 4 years. The program will apply for a competitive grant which is much more funding. Randy will seek out professional help to go after the additional money. Randy wants to see if SKMM can help them with the second phase of the grant. **Martin Charlo** suggested the grant application include a copy of the CSKT climate change priority resolution so the Environmental Protection Agency knows the CSKT is committed to climate change.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to approve by resolution submission of an application for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant from the Environmental Protection Agency in the amount of \$500,000.00. Seconded by Ellie Bundy. Carried, 8 for; 0 opposed; 0 not voting.

RESOLUTION 23-113

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE SUBMISSION OF FISCAL YEAR 2024 THROUGH 2027 CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANT APPLICATIONS TO THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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

WHEREAS, The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes are a federally recognized tribe, recognized by the United States Government and all of its Governing bodies and agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes considers protection of the environment on the Flathead Indian Reservation to be among its highest priorities; and

WHEREAS, the Natural Resources Department, Division of Environmental Protection is held with the responsibility of protection of the environment; and

WHEREAS, there is overwhelming scientific evidence of climate change driven in part by the release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, the effects of which may significantly affect environment, natural and cultural resources, and infrastructure on which the Tribes have traditionally relied; and

WHEREAS, the Tribes are eligible to apply for Environmental Grants to the Environmental Protection Agency; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Environmental Protection Agency be requested to make funds available for the following programs; Clean Air Act Section (CAA) 105 Ambient/IMPROVE program for the period October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2027;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tribal Council Chairman and his designated representative are authorized to negotiate and execute the contract documents and any amendments thereto.

Randy Ashley informed council he sent to the Personnel Department an updated position description for the Climate Control Coordinator position that was previously occupied by Ryan Evans. Randy was surprised that what he was putting in for came up for advertisement, so he was unsure what would happen now since the person will get hired before Randy applies for the grant. Randy wanted to know what the Tribes' plan is for that position. **Renee Joachim**, Personnel Department, responded that the Office of Tribal Member Services is advertising the position and it will be under the direct supervision of Tony Incashola, Jr. **Martin Charlo** suggested Randy follow up with Tony to make sure we are not duplicating the same position. **Len TwoTeeth** will have Tony brief Randy on that job so everyone is on the same page.

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

Renee Joachim, Personnel Department; **Christopher Largent**, **Mary Beth Beaulieu**, **Laurie Battaglia**, and **Jessica Purdy**, Aligned At Work; requested to meet with council in **executive session** to hold a workshop with the council.

Christopher Largent, Mary Beth Beaulieu, Laurie Battaglia, and Jessica Purdy, Aligned At Work; continued to meet with council in **executive session** to hold a workshop with the council. **Rick Eneas**, Tribal Executive Officer, was present for discussion.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

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

Mark Couture, Holly Hitchcock, Tammy McCrea, Twila Irvine, Shara Hoskinson, George Ducharme, Tara Irvine, Zanen Pitts, and Brad McCrea, Tribal Lands Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session** for a Land Committee meeting.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

MOTION by Ellie Bundy to approve the request from Allen Fuqua for a letter of disinterest so he can do a gift deed in trust to his brother. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

MOTION by Bing Matt to show disinterest and approve a letter of disinterest in the Brad Trospen property so the property can be put into fee status. Seconded by Jim Malatare. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

Council met in **executive session**.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

MOTION by Bing Matt to rescind the motion and action and table the issue on the five-day rule. Seconded by Jim Malatare. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

MOTION by Ellie Bundy to award the 2024 fireworks bid to Brad Pluff for the Polson site. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

MOTION by Terry Pitts to award the 2024 fireworks bid to Ginger Drake for the Ronan site. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

MOTION by Martin Charlo to deny the request from Intertribal Infrastructure Group for an easement across tribal land for fiber. Seconded by Terry Pitts. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

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MOTION by Jim Malatare to award the Hot Springs rental to the elder. Seconded by Ellie Bundy. Carried, 6 for; 2 abstentions (Martin Charlo and Bing Matt).

Martin Charlo, for the record, "I abstained because I wanted more information."

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

Carole Lankford left the meeting for the remainder of the day.

Brian Fyant and **Louis Fiddler**, Law & Order; **Mark Couture**, Tribal Lands Department; **Michael Wheeler**, Legal Department; and **Rob Jacobson**; requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss a land issue. **Shane Hendrickson**, Bureau of Indian Affairs Superintendent, was present for discussion.

Shane Hendrickson, Bureau of Indian Affairs Superintendent, requested to meet with council in **executive session**.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Council **adjourned** at 3:55 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Martin A. Charlo
Tribal Council Secretary