

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

Volume 23 Number 48
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: May 16, 2023
Approved: May 23, 2023

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: James “Bing” Matt (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 9:02 a.m. Quorum established.

The meeting was opened with a **prayer** by Len TwoTeeth.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for May 4, 2023 were presented for approval.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for May 4, 2023, with corrections. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, 8 for; 1 abstention (Carole Lankford).

Carole Lankford acknowledged Bryan Dupuis for graduating from Law School this past weekend. Bryan has had a long journey, and she was glad to see he got through it. Carole hopes Bryan will work for the CSKT. **Chairman McDonald** taught a couple of classes that Bryan was in at the Law School, and he looks forward to a great career out of him.

Chairman McDonald reminded council of the workshop they have this afternoon.

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

MOTION by Mike Dolson to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Jim Malatare. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

Ellie Bundy gave an update on the MMIP walk at SKC on May 6. They had an amazing turnout and raised just under \$1,200.00 that will go to MMIP Victim Assistance Services Fund. Ellie thanked everyone who was involved. **Len TwoTeeth** acknowledged the work of Jami and Ellie on MMIP. He was contacted by an individual whose daughter went missing and they were able to provide the necessary resources and find the daughter. Ellie and Jami provided a quick response to help the family.

Len TwoTeeth announced the Elmo district meeting will be held tomorrow from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Elmo Hall. The agenda will include the Executive Team providing updates on their departments and the Legal Department providing an update on the water compact funding and State land exchanges. Pizza will be provided.

Carole Lankford informed council she received some phone calls regarding vandalism at the Pache Homesites. An individual had her windows broken and tires slashed and wanted to know if the person responsible could be required to pay restitution from his 18 money. Carole wanted to know if a judge has the authority to order restitution from the 18 money account if the person is convicted of the crime. There are several kids involved in the vandalism and it is occurring in the city of Ronan, as well. There was a pack of kids that ensued in a chase. Carole wanted to know if there was anything in the Land Ordinance that could help address these issues. Individuals can be evicted from their homesite and they would be required to move. She wishes those young kids would change their lives. Carole was concerned why it is taking so long to get the Land Ordinance enacted. **Chairman McDonald** will ask the Legal staff about the 18 money restitution and status of the Land Ordinance. **Len TwoTeeth** commented that those vehicles were severely vandalized and are the vehicles individuals use to get to work and they can no longer get to work. He wants to look at modifying or waiving the Dire Need policy to provide funding to these folks to fix their vehicles so they can remain employed. Otherwise, there is nothing out there and he wants to help them out with this unfortunate circumstance. These people are on limited income and cannot afford to make these types of repairs. **Carole Lankford** requested that Craige Couture provide a report to council. She would agree with using Dire Need only if the program can be reimbursed from their 18 money. **Chairman McDonald** has had two car windows shot out in Ronan; vandalism happens quite often. **Jennifer Finley** wants the Legal staff to explain how it works, but she thought parents were liable for juveniles that commit such crimes. **Terry Pitts** informed council that his wife had her car damaged by a student at the school and wanted to file charges to get restitution. It took some time, but she recovered the money. They need to be held accountable.

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Ellie Bundy reminded council of the opioid/fentanyl townhall meeting at the St. Ignatius Community Center tomorrow at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Craige Couture, Law & Order, joined the discussion and informed council of multiple vandalism incidents that occurred in the Pache Homesites over the weekend. The only adult involved was arrested and the juveniles walked. The vandalism resulted in thousands of dollars of damage. Ronan City has multiple cases and the same individuals did the same thing in Missoula. Chief Couture receives calls from concerned citizens on a daily basis, but it is out of his hands and it is very frustrating. It is up to the courts and juvenile probation. The individuals get bailed out and then get arrested again. **Chairman McDonald** asked if there was any option for restitution to come out of their 18 money. **Chief Couture** does not know that information since they are juveniles, but the parents can be held accountable. One parent was arrested and some of the parents contacted law enforcement saying their child was involved in the incidents. Craige did not want to jeopardize prosecution so he was not willing to divulge any further details about the case. **Len TwoTeeth** told Patti the Tribal Council wanted to know if there is any type of assistance available for those folks. **Patricia Hibbler**, Tribal Member Services, will follow up. She had one person reach out last Thursday for assistance due to her tires being slashed and windows broken out and they worked with DHRD to provide assistance.

Mike Dolson thanked Chief Couture for his assistance with the dog vs. calf incident at Camas Prairie.

Martin Charlo was approached by Two Eagle River School requesting approval to use the old heavy equipment garage that is being used as a pseudo security office. The garage is vacant and the school wants access to it in the winter for their buses for maintenance and storage.

Martin Charlo requested an update on the Dixon Agency project. The basketball hoops were torn out and nothing was done with them. The community members put the hoops back up but they are unusable. **Chairman McDonald** will request an update from the Tribal Lands Department.

Steve Arca, Salish Kootenai College, asked the chairman or a council representative to provide the welcoming remarks and an update on the Education position at the Montana Early Childhood Language Summit to be held at Salish Kootenai College June 14 & 15. **Len TwoTeeth** will forward the information/agenda to the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council.

Tabatha Espinoza, Natural Resources Department, requested approval of modification 1 to Contract No. 22-300 with Geum Environmental Consulting to include two additional task orders for mitigation planning and support with the

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Bison Range restoration efforts and increase the amount by \$207,581.15, for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$877,279.40. **Martin Charlo** let Tabitha know the signature line needed to be corrected from Clayton Matt to Tony Incashola, Jr. Tabatha will make the correction to the contract.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to approve modification 1 to Contract No. 22-300 with Geum Environmental Consulting to include two additional task orders for mitigation planning and support with the Bison Range restoration efforts and increase the amount by \$207,581.15, for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$877,279.40. Seconded by Carole Lankford. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

Jennifer Finley left the meeting on personal time off for the remainder of the day.

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

Zanen Pitts, Tribal Lands Department, gave an update on basketball courts at Dixon Agency. The deadline for the contractor to complete the work is June 1. The contractor took down the basketball hoops to level the ground and then they will be put back up.

Mark Couture, **Zanen Pitts** and **Rachael BigSam**, Tribal Lands Department, presented a request from Ramona Lynch to sell the Tribes her irrigation equipment consisting of 2.5-mile wheel lines with hookup valves and hoses and two 5 HP motors for a total of \$10,000.00 (\$5,000.00 each). The wheel lines are located on Ag Lease # 1515 in Round Butte. Ramona was the lessee for the past 13 years and lost the lease due to being unable to meet the high bid so she will be removing her equipment from the lease. The Tribes have 98% ownership in this allotment. The Lands staff determined it would be a good investment. The funds would need to be taken from the capital equipment funds since this purchase was not included in the department's budget.

MOTION by Len TwoTeeth to go with option 1 and purchase Ramona Lynch's irrigation equipment consisting of 2.5-mile wheel lines with hookup valves and hoses and two 5 HP motors for a total of \$10,000.00. Seconded by Terry Pitts. Carried, 6 for; 1 opposed (Mike Dolson); 1 abstention (Ellie Bundy).

Mark Couture, **Zanen Pitts** and **Rachael BigSam**, Tribal Lands Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session**.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Mark Couture, **Zanen Pitts** and **Rachael BigSam**, Tribal Lands Department, requested approval of the highest and best bids for the 2023 Spring Bid.

MOTION by Ellie Bundy to approve the staff recommendations and approve the highest and best bids for the 2023 Spring Bid. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, 6 for; 1 opposed (Jim Malatare); 1 abstention (Martin Charlo).

Ruth Swaney, Financial Management, met with council in **executive session**.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

MOTION by Len TwoTeeth to approve the ARPA pay for employees, as presented by staff. The ARPA pay for employees is effective for those employees employed as of today. Seconded by Ellie Bundy. Carried, unanimous (7 present - Carole Lankford out of the room).

MOTION by Len TwoTeeth to approve the recommendations by staff for the fiscal year 2024 budget allocation targets. Seconded by Ellie Bundy. Carried, unanimous (7 present – Carole Lankford out of the room).

Dan Decker, Michael Wheeler, John Harrison, Brian Upton, Zach Zipfel, and Melissa Schlichting, Legal Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Council **adjourned** at 12:30 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, May 23, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Martin A. Charlo
Tribal Council Secretary