

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

Volume 24 Number 13
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: November 30, 2023
Approved: December 5, 2023

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Len TwoTeeth, Vice-Chairman(Tribal Leaders Council Meeting – Billings, Montana); and Jim Malatare (Tribal Leaders Council Meeting – Billings, Montana).

OTHERS PRESENT: Jennifer Trahan, Tribal Council Support; and Abby Dupuis, Recording Secretary.

The meeting was called to **order** at 9:05 a.m. Quorum established.

The meeting was opened with a **prayer** by Martin Charlo.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for November 28, 2023 were presented for approval.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for November 28, 2023, with corrections. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, 7 for; 1 abstention (Ellie Bundy).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

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

Chairman McDonald let council know he sent them a draft position description for the Sergeant at Arms for council review. If the council agrees to the changes, it will become a full time position.

Francis Antoine and **Deaken Qualtier** discussed the housing waiting list. Deacon was number one on the list, but other people were offered a place to live. Francis wanted to know why other people were placed ahead of Deacon. **Jody Cahoon Perez**, Salish Kootenai Housing Authority, explained there are two

units that are under contract. One of the units was offered to a resident of the Recovery Village that needs to move out and the other unit will be ready in two weeks and will be offered to Deacon. There are 250 individuals on the waiting list and all of them are in a situation where they do not have stable housing. There is not enough housing to meet the needs of the membership. **Carole Lankford** would like the policy changed regarding the seven homes that will be available. Jody responded that all of those units have already been offered to people on the waiting list. There is a minimum income requirement for those homes because every new home that is built must cashflow because there is no funding to cover the costs.

Tracy Couture and **Yvette Coldsweather**, Department of Human Resources Development; **Mark Couture** and **Brad McCrea**, Tribal Lands Department; **Greg Spahr**, Financial Management; and **Joel Unruh**, Tiny Homes; requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss a departmental request. **Jami Pluff**, Homeless Coordinator, was present for discussion.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to go ahead and go along with what the executive financial officer said that the budget is ready to be appropriated and move forward with the budget that's been presented at \$1.34 million, with a caveat we may need to add to it if we go along with the discussion of the additional homes and there is money for water, septic, and wells, and have a plan in 30 days and include the Tribal Council in the planning. Seconded by Ellie Bundy. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

Terry Pitts mentioned the comment made by the youth this morning about safe places. He would like to consider having a roundtable, including the Boys and Girls Club and families to discuss. There should be something offered in each community like a billboard with a number. There are kids wandering around the streets after school and when there is nobody at home. Terry wants to have a collective discussion. **Council** will follow up with the Tribal Education Department.

Gary Johnson, and **Neil Putnum**, KLJ; and **Katie Elliot**, Ronan Chamber of Commerce; gave an update on the master plan and five-year economic development strategic plan for the City of Ronan. 158 comments have been received from the survey. The stakeholders have expressed the desire for the Tribes to be involved in Ronan's future. They asked for tribal input. The City of Ronan received funding from the USDA and some grant funding to develop the master plan and an economic development study. **Chairman McDonald's** main priorities are to have safe pedestrian traffic and have the signage include interpretive signage and history. Tom resides in Ronan and he would like to participate in the planning process. Katie will add Chairman McDonald to the

participation list. The link to the survey and hard copies were provided. Council suggested it be posted at tribal buildings and published in the Char-Koosta News. Neil would like the Ronan School District to send out the survey and involve youth organizations.

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

Scott Johnston, Whisper Camel-Means, Seth Makepeace, and Rob McDonald, Natural Resources Department, gave an update on grants and projects. The CSKT was awarded the fiscal year 2022 NSFLTP grant for just over \$30 million. One option is for those funds to go directly to the Montana Department of Transportation for administering and managing the grant for the construction of the US Highway 93 Dublin Gulch to Gunlock Road project. CSKT would remain involved as described in the project specific agreement under the current memorandum of agreement with the Montana Department of Transportation. The design is 30% completed and MDT has begun the preliminary work. The other option is to remain the direct recipient of the grant, which means CSKT retains full control/responsibility for it. The funding would be passed from the FHWA through the CSKT and the Federal Highway Administration would provide stewardship and oversight.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to go with option 1 and to transfer the fiscal year 2022 NSFLTP funds directly to the Montana Department of Transportation for administering the construction of the US Highway 93 Dublin Gulch to Gunlock Road project. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

Terry Pitts informed Scott of concerns he has received about pedestrians crossing the road in Elmo and the need to have some lighting there. Terry mentioned a study was being on the Dixon Agency and he wanted to know the status of that. Terry would like something to happen this fall. **Scott Johnston** can look into lighting in Elmo. He suggested setting up a meeting to discuss the Dixon Agency. **Carole Lankford** wants Scott to provide a report on the TIP. She does not see a need to have a community meeting; the project just needs to get moving. **Rob McDonald** stated the program is aware of the council's commitment and the staff is doing their best to get it done.

Teresa Wall-McDonald and **Dan Depoe**, Mission Valley Power Utility Board; **Zachary Conko-Camel**, Mission Valley Power; requested adoption of the final rate recommendation for a three-year adjustment that would occur March 1, 2024, March 1, 2025 and March 1, 2026, and urge the Bureau of Indian Affairs to publish it in the federal register with an effective date of March 1, 2024. The Region had asked them to pass on the cost of purchased power first. The first rate increase of 11.78% would become effective on January 1, 2024 and then in March 2024, there would be rate increase of just under 6% for O&M revenue

rate recovery. MVP would like a call made next week to make sure the passthrough request was adequate and find out who is assigned to monitor the federal register publication being completed. **Bing Matt** stated there are power surges that happen at Gray Wolf Peak Casino and they knock off the gaming machines. There is a tribal member who was required to pay \$2,500.00 to sign up for power for their new residence, and Bing wanted to know if MVP can do anything to help people in those situations. Zack explained when customers leave MVP with an outstanding balance, that debt needs to be paid before they can sign up for power again. Zack met with the Missoula General Manager about getting back the 69 customers MVP used to have and the possibility of collaborating with other utilities to deal with issues.

MOTION by Terry Pitts to adopt the final rate recommendation for a three-year adjustment and urge the Bureau of Indian Affairs to publish it in the federal register with an effective date of March 1, 2024. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

Tony Incashola, Jr., Tribal Resources Management Director; and **Danna Jackson**, Legal Department; requested to meet with council in **executive session** to provide an update.

Tony Incashola, Jr., Tribal Resources Management Director; and **Mark Couture**, Tribal Lands Department; requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss a departmental matter.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to approve the revised organizational chart for the Tribal Lands Department, as presented. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, 6 for; 1 abstention (Carole Lankford); 1 opposed (Terry Pitts – some of the positions are held by nonmembers and he wants new positions advertised to give tribal members an opportunity to apply).

Council met in **executive session**.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

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

Council met in **executive session** to discuss a personnel matter. **Melanie Piedalue**, Personnel Department, was present for discussion.

Council met in **executive session** to conduct interviews for the Lay Justice of the Appellate Court vacancies. **Melanie Piedalue**, Personnel Department, was present for interviews.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to accept the results of the ballot and appoint Gregory Dupuis and Robert McDonald to fill the Lay Associate Justice of the Appellate Court positions for a three-year term. Seconded by Jennifer Finley. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

Council met in **executive session**.

Rodney Bird, Two Eagle River School; **Lisa Shourds**, Administrative Services Director; **Kelly Parker**, Contracts & Grants; **Melanie Piedalue**, **Cynthia Matt**, and **Shelley Grenier**, Personnel Department; **Michael Wheeler**, Legal Department; requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss a personnel matter.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Bing Matt requested an extension for the Ferry Basin Management Unit bull elk hunting season for the successful tag holders through December 31, 2023. There have only been six bull killed this hunting season.

MOTION by Bing Matt to the extend the Ferry Basin Management Unit bull elk hunting season for the successful tag holders through December 31, 2023. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

Martin Charlo announced there will be a Tribal Council candidate forum at Two Eagle River School today at 5:30 p.m.

Brenda Richey, **Patrick Mangan**, and **Havilah Burton**, MSU-FRTEP, gave an update on the Flathead Reservation Extension Office program.

Council **adjourned**, and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Martin A. Charlo
Tribal Council Secretary