

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

Volume 24 Number 2
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: October 6, 2023
Approved: October 10, 2023

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Jennifer Trahan, Tribal Council Support; James Steele, Sr., Sergeant at Arms; 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 Johnny Arlee.

The **Yamncut Drum Group** sang a flag song.

Everyone sang happy birthday to Chairman McDonald.

The floor was opened for the Tribal Elders to speak.

Stephen Smallsalmon addressed the Tribal Council. He feels blessed to be able to speak the native language. Stephen went to boarding schools and his elders were still speaking Indian when he got back. He went on the Medicine Tree trip yesterday, which made him happy. Stephen talked about the importance of the language. He was concerned about the traffic speeding by the Medicine Tree area. It is a dangerous place for traffic to be driving so fast and he would like that area looked into. There were a lot of people at the Agnes Vanderburg Camp. He would like to see the Tribal Council members involved in things so they know what the membership is talking about. Stephen refers to the Tribal Council members as chiefs; they are here to help the people. The kids will be going to Missoula on Monday and will be walking; we should always support them. There will be a celebration and pow wow on Monday. There was a celebration in Arlee. We should support our children and the schools. He asked the council to help out with Pete Beaverhead’s house, which is a special place. Stephen told the council that new toilets are needed at the Vanderburg Camp.

Chairman McDonald told Stephen that the Tribal Council will take the safety at the Medicine Tree location under advisement. It is a constraining issue that needs to be improved. Tom reminded the audience that the Tribal Health staff are providing shots and boosters today. There will not be any lunch served today, but breakfast is provided for everyone.

Phillip Paul mentioned election time is coming up. He noticed the Election Rules are bent. All candidates need to live in their districts. We have tribal members who live off the reservation, and he would like the Election Rules changed to allow nonresident tribal members to vote in Tribal Council elections. Pow wows were taken away from tribal members and a volunteer committee was formed for the purpose of getting rid of the beer gardens. The Pow Wow Committee members were not to profit off the pow wow. Now the rules have changed and people are getting paid. We have lost our cultural ways and everyone wants to get paid now. He sees in the council minutes that we pay people's way to go to a rodeo. Phillip has been an election judge for a long time. The election judges used to receive \$25 for the first meeting, mileage, and \$50 for sitting all day. Their compensation was increased this year. As Indian people, we should take pride in what we have. We should be an example for the young people. We spend a lot of money on our language. We have hunting rights on the reservation. He sees young people that waste game. Phillip's grandfather died for our hunting rights in the Swan, and it angers him when people waste game. All animals are a gift to sustain us and make us strong. Phillip looks at everyone to be proud to be a tribal member and ask what they can do to make things better.

Shirley Trahan has worked as a Language Specialist at the Salish Pend d'Oreille Culture Committee for the past 22 years. Before that, she taught language at the St. Ignatius Public School. She thought our young people needed to learn something about their people and their language. Shirley thought the alphabet was easy and she writes it out sound for sound, and she can read it, write sentences, and write stories from those recordings that the elders left for us. There are stories about what they used to do and where they went. It has been rewarding for her and her family. They tried for several years to have language classes, but then they would stop. There is a new system now where they have language classes at the Long House. They go through several books. Some of the students have become teachers. They just finished a round last week and will start more classes in mid-October. The Nkwusm School teaches the students the language and the culture. Shirley also serves on the Elder Advisory Board. She had to prove she could speak the language and have cultural knowledge to serve on that board. Tony Incashola, Sr. passed away last year and now the Culture Committee has a young director. Tony saw something good in her and thought she would make a good director. She is doing a good job. We still have our Jump Dances on New Year's if there are no deaths in the community. They still try to have their wakes there. They just got a new parking lot paved, so they are not holding wakes there for the moment. The Culture Committee is there for the

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people and help them to learn the language and culture if they desire to learn. Our language and culture were in danger in the 1970s, but things are better now. They have maps of our territories and those placenames were used in the water compact. The elders encourage everyone to get involved in the culture. Our folks spoke the language every day and she is thankful we never lost it. Shirley went on the Medicine Tree trip yesterday.

Chairman McDonald is a strong supporter to grant nonresident tribal members the right to vote; they have all the rights and equal access to our resources. We need to cherish each moment we have with our family members and explore all of our aboriginal territory. It is important to take back our uses and gathering in all 20 million acres of our aboriginal territory. We should steward it with every management thing we do. It is important to go to the landscape where a generation was removed. It strengthens our health and wellbeing of our family. All that lies is within this territory, and it is critically important to retain that access.

The floor was opened for comments from the Tribal Council members.

Carole Lankford has been on the Tribal Council for 119 quarterly council meetings. She thanked the drum for the song and the elders for their instructions. The Tribes are experiencing some wins. We started a new fiscal year, which means new money for programs. She discussed Project 30. There will be a presentation on that later today. It is where some Housing Authority homes will be turned over to them to operate to help out the community. There are some ARPA funds available for each community to do projects for children. She will be talking about skateparks, which includes bikes, rollerblades, and skates. It will provide opportunities for kids to have these parks in their communities. ARPA set aside \$100,000 for each community. Terrence Lozeau gained 1,000 signatures to get a skatepark in Ronan. Carole and Martin held a joint district meeting. They met with Whitney Williams, a former Congressman's daughter, and Jeff Ament, the drummer for Pearl Jam, to talk about Pearl Jam bringing money to the table for these skateparks. Jimmy Malatare will show them the property in Arlee today, and then they will go to two sites in Ronan and one in Pablo. They will show a video later today. Carole has been working with Patricia Hibbeler and other tribes on the development of a regional treatment center in two locations. Federal law limits them to having only 16 beds and we need 32 beds, so there will be two locations. One treatment center might be located on the reservation. The Montana Healthcare Foundation is facilitating the project. There is a center in Browning and one in Spokane. There is a need for treatment centers so hopefully the center will be here. Last night she attended a function at the Mansfield Center to celebrate 40 years of bipartisan and ethical leadership. Former Governor Marc Roscot and Liz Chaney were there and spoke about the issues. Liz is concerned that we have the Speaker of the House being ousted and replaced by someone else. Liz is concerned about

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Jim Jordan being appointed, due to his involvement in the January 6 incident at the capitol building. Carole attends the Salish Choir and Hymns in St. Ignatius that has been funded so the program can continue. Carole looked at the Salish Language Teacher contracts to see if they could attend community events and she would like them to be encouraged to participate. They need to participate in wakes, funerals, and other celebrations to help them out. Carole has been working on the Medicaid Expansion Reauthorization. It sunsets in June 2024. They will ask folks to write letters, make calls, and attend the legislature. It brings a lot of funding to the Tribal Health Department and we need to continue with that program. She attended a Tiwaha meeting, which brings in more funding to the Tribes. We received \$200,000 and it will bring in millions of dollars for Social Services, the Courts, etc. The Ronan Health Center is up and running. There are some issues with the pharmacy that will take a bit to fix. The Fitness Center in Ronan is near completion.

Martin Charlo thanked the people that serve us, including the employees and staff. They are the people that do not always get the recognition they deserve and they do the most work. Going into the flu season, he sends special prayers for our healthcare workers to stay well. We are still coming off of a pandemic and it is still important to social distance and wash our hands. People need to stay home if they are sick and we need to protect our elders and children. He thinks of our next generation and to perpetuate that is important. Martin thanked Shirley and Johnny and those who taught him. There were a lot of years he did not go to events because he had other obligations and work, and now he has the opportunity to participate. It is important to support those things and make sure they continue, such as the Medicine Tree trip, the Culture Committees, etc. Regarding the Medicine Tree area, the Connor project is on the Montana Department of Transportation's five-year plan. Martin participated in a meeting with the Montana Department of Transportation and Tony Incashola, Sr. about that project. Safety is important. Civic duty is important; it is the most important thing for us. Our elections are coming up. He won the last election by one vote. Martin is appreciative of the membership who supported him. He encouraged everyone to vote next week. Martin is helping with the planning of a pow wow in Missoula next Monday. Last year we renamed the bridge and addressed the history that went with that along with the sadness associated with that, and this year it is a celebration for our resiliency. That area is our homeland and will be forever. It will be an annual event with the help of Missoula and the Tribes. Our homeland extends way beyond our reservation boundaries. He asked the corporations to attend the celebration and have a table there to showcase our successes. We should be proud of our successes and show that to the community. Martin realizes this could be his last quarterly council meeting as a tribal council member, so it is bittersweet. Martin let the audience know that he was proud to have served them.

Bing Matt thanked Johnny for the prayer, the drum group for their song, and Shirley, Phillip, and Stephen for their words this morning. He went to Bozeman with Tony Incashola, Jr. to go to a conference with the Forest Service and the National Fish & Wildlife Service about the National Forest restoration. Tony opened the eyes of those people to let them know this is part of our home and they should be talking to the Tribes before they do things. We got a lot of thank-yous for being at that conference, and that was good to hear from those people. The Culture Committee went to the Marshall Ski area with several other groups. That is a big part of our homeland and they want to preserve it. The City of Missoula has been working well with the Tribes and supporting us. It is great that Missoula is hosting the pow wow next Monday and to include us in their ideas. The Tribes continue to have some issues they are dealing with. Bing encouraged everyone to vote in the upcoming election.

Chairman McDonald gave an update on Marshall Mountain. The City of Missoula and the Missoula County Commissioners set up a bond availability to buy open space. A trust was established to buy land. They have an open space levy and are buying the Marshall Mountain Ski area to secure it for open space, and they have asked the Tribes to be part of that.

Ellie Bundy gave the following report: “Thank you, Chairman McDonald and council peers...Thank you for the beautiful song, the heartfelt prayer, and the words of our elders this morning. Well, as you all know, the beginning of this quarter saw extreme fire dangers across the reservation. I want to give a huge heartfelt thanks to our CSKT Division Fire employees, Northern Rockies Incident Management Team members, and all other personnel who worked so hard to suppress the Big Knife, Middle Ridge, Communication Butte, Niarada, and Mill Pocket fires. We are grateful for you and thank you so much for your commitment, leadership, passion, perseverance, and strength. I would like to provide an update on our Missing and Murdered Indigenous People in Montana. To date, there are currently 188 missing people in Montana, of those, 53 are Indigenous. We constitute 28% of those missing in a state where we represent 7% of the population. I’ve continued to provide presentations in an effort to help educate and raise awareness to the issue. Last week I presented for the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children at their emerging trends conference in Billings and next week I will be presenting to the US Forest Service’s Law Enforcement Supervisors. While at the NCMEC Conference, I learned more about three very important topics: Human Trafficking, Sextortion, and C-SAM (Child Sexual Abuse Material) or Child pornography as defined under federal law. It is so important that I need to share a few things with you...I apologize in advance for the serious nature of my report but we cannot be afraid to have the difficult conversations related to these issues and if my sharing today helps even one child, then I am glad to have used my time in this way! First, human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal business in the world, according to the state dept. It ranks second, behind drug trafficking, in profitability, bringing in an estimated

\$150 billion annually. To put that into perspective, Walmart makes an average profit of \$14.7 billion in 1 year. The majority of those trafficked are young adults between the ages of 14 and 24 and almost all have experienced either sexual exploitation, violence, or forced drug use. Keep in mind that one reason why this business is enticing for traffickers is that a human can be sold over and over again, while a drug can only be sold once. The targets are often those who are most vulnerable: runaways, homeless, those with an abusive home life, substance abusers, those with mental disabilities or those living in poverty. Traffickers supply drugs, housing, money, clothing, phones...whatever it is that victim needs and then demands payback. You must know that this is not just happening in large cities...it is here. The other thing terrifying thing that is happening to kids today is something called Sextortion. And I must preface this by saying you must not turn a deaf ear by thinking "my kid would never do that" because the truth is technology and social media have absolutely transformed the landscape when it comes to the way kids are communicating. The FBI has interviewed victims as young as 8. Arming your child with the information allows them to help their friends if the need arises. It affects children and teens of both genders and crosses all ethnic and socioeconomic groups. Victims can be honor-roll students, the children of teachers, student athletes, etc. The only common trait among victims is internet access. So, what exactly is it? Sextortion is when children and teens are coerced into sharing nude images with someone they believe they can trust..perhaps someone posing as a boy or girl their same age...and are then blackmailed with threats of sharing photos with parents, teachers, friends or threatening physical harm to family members if kids don't send more photos or money. This can be traumatic for children and teens as they feel shame, fear, and confusion. Too many kids have taken their own lives because of that shame and fear! Please talk to your kids in non-judgmental ways about what this is and how they can report it and get help! Reporting can be done online at "Cybertipline.org" or by calling 1-800-thelost. I am collaborating with the DOJ's Computer Crimes Investigator to bring this topic to our reservation schools and communities soon. I won't go into great detail but a disturbing reality is that the internet platforms we have all become accustomed to connect and share information, are now being used to disseminate and collect CSAM. It can be found in virtually ANY online realm...social media, online gaming, and email. Please know that the cyber tip line can also be used to report incidents of suspected child sexual exploitation. It was shared that the tipline has received over 82 million reports and the Child Victim Identification Program has reviewed over 322 million images and videos. Please know that we are not just talking about 16 or 17 year olds, but babies, toddlers, pre-pubescent boys and girls. That is terrifying. It is heart wrenching to know a demand for this material even exists. It is also important to know that support is available for survivors and their families through the provision of crisis intervention, resources and continuum of care after the abuse has stopped. Again, I'm sorry to speak on heavy topics today, but if one of you hear this message and talk to your kids, then it was important to share! With that, I will end my report by

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saying THANK YOU to the membership for the opportunity to serve you!! To all of you looking to make it to Yellowstone to harvest a bison, good luck and be safe!!!”

Len TwoTeeth thanked everyone for attending today’s meeting. It always sends him a reminder of who he serves and works for. The council serves the membership. Len commended the Tribal Education Department for going above their call of duty to create the Flathead Youth Council. Now we have a mechanism to reach out to our youth. They have stepped up and are willing to help the people. It is important that we engage the youth; they need to know they have a voice. It is imperative that Len acknowledge them today and he looks forward to working with them. This council has worked diligently on matters regarding Mission Valley Power and Salish Kootenai College. Mission Valley Power is a very complicated issue to understand how the Tribes will take ownership of it in the future. Len is trying to understand the operations. He congratulated Zach Camel for being hired as the new General Manager of MVP. It is an honor and privilege to work for the people.

Jim Malatare thanked everyone for being here and for bringing up important issues. Jimmy went on the Medicine Tree trip yesterday; there were young kids listening to the elders’ stories. It is amazing how folks used to have to live generations ago. We need to learn from that. Individuals can go to the Medicine Tree and ask questions of those who are knowledgeable. He talked about the importance of having a treatment center. People need to be able to go when they are ready for treatment instead of having to wait for an available bed. They need a place to go get help. We are losing a lot of young folks to drugs. It is devastating to lose a family member to drugs. Jimmy wants to work on those issues and get something done. The skatepark will give kids something to do and enjoy something and it is important to give kids an outlet. He asked council if they could use some of the community funding to buy playground equipment for the Nkwusm School. The students are selling cookies and trying to raise money on their own. Jim attended two Tribal Leaders Council meetings this past quarter. It is a difficult struggle to get through life, and we need to do whatever we can to help provide medical care to those in need. This council is working hard and doing some amazing things. He is proud to work with his colleagues. Jim thanked the membership for the opportunity to serve them on the council.

Jennifer Finley reported this past quarter she went to the Tribal Leaders Council Conference in August. There was a presenter talking about how food can affect our mood. If we do a treatment center, nutrition must be part of that. It is important for people dealing with addiction because it can help with the cravings. 90% of people addicted to opioids are victims of trauma. That is the real issue we have here. It used to be alcohol, then meth, and now it is fentanyl. When people have trauma, it is some form of self-harm in how they deal with that. We need to prevent and address trauma as soon as possible. Regarding the language

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classes in Mission that Shirley talked about and being connected to our culture is a protective shield of our trauma and makes us more resilient. They negate trauma. Jennifer was glad the Youth Council was mentioned. They did a great job with the Arlee Pow Wow. Jennifer attended a stick game class. She attended the Food Sovereignty distribution open house at Kicking Horse. Jennifer thinks of food as medicine. Their work is important to our community. She toured a composting business in Ronan that is owned by tribal member Bob Bell. He uses fish waste from Native Fish Keepers and turns it into high-quality compost. There is an opportunity when we have a meat processing plant in Ronan in the future. We need to do what we can to reduce our carbon footprint and live our lives in an ecological sound way. Jennifer was glad to see everyone here today. The membership can contact her with questions or concerns and she is be happy to meet with them.

Mike Dolson thanked his colleagues and the membership for allowing him to serve. Mike talked about the Tribes' ability to compact and contract with the US government. He has been tasked with working on the federal rules that do not fit us for the past three years, and it is still ongoing. The progress amendment to Public Law 93-638 is something he hopes we can bring some good back to the Tribes. He has been tasked with the issue of watching the Columbia River and Basin and getting native fish in the Columbia River. The treaty is being renegotiated and he continues to track that. There is a lawsuit with the basin tribes about bringing salmon back into those fisheries and taking out the Lower Snake Dam. It has been ongoing for a long time and is painful to watch. Native fish and salmon are supposed to be returned to the river. CSKT is working on a new Probate Code. The Federal Code does not fit us, so it is important to have a Code that does. Everyone is welcome to attend the Hot Springs district meetings, which are held the last Friday of each month at the Hot Springs Senior Center. Darryl Whitworth has been asking for gravel for the cemetery for the past 30 years and still has not been able to get any. The old Bathhouse is becoming a liability to the community. It is deteriorating and children are climbing around in it. Mike is pushing to get something done. We need to think about the young kids going to school. There have been kickoff events sponsored by the Tribal Education Department that have been successful. We need to pray for our children to have the best they can have. Mike can be reached at 406-880-5244.

Terry Pitts thanked Johnny for the prayer, the drum group for the song, the Sergeant at Arms for all he does, and the cooks that provided the breakfast. A variety of skillsets are brought by this body. They sit down as a team and discuss the topics and tweak them here and there and move forward with motions. They want to be united because they are stronger when united. The school year gets everyone back into a routine. Terry hopes the families stay safe. It was an interesting summer with global warming and with the fires and water shortages. It is time to reevaluate management. Some forage was three feet tall and could have resulted in unmanageable fires. The Communication Butte fire was in

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Dixon. It could have gone south, which would have impacted many Dixon residents. We all witnessed the impacts of the water levels being at record lows and impacting the producers and recreationalists. It brings us to a time to reevaluate if we can manage our lands in a better way next year which is projected to be a dry winter. He thanked the firefighters and those working to get the firefighters better paid, and he thanked the climate office for monitoring the air quality and keeping everyone abreast of the air quality. We are still battling with the Forest Service to change the placenames and threats of mining in our cultural sites. Community projects take time to implement. There is a shortage of workers, which is an issue. The completion of projects keep getting moved to later dates. With the uncertainty of economic times, we are working to keep programs funded and keeping tribal members working. Terry thanked everyone for being here; we are blessed to be on this land and he prays we stay strong and move forward with our culture, our land, our future, and our youth.

Chairman McDonald thanked his great colleagues; they all step up and do things that they do not necessarily like to do but understand it's what they need to do to represent our people and provide leadership. It is ten degrees above normal. This was a phenomenal year; everything was on fire and burned the landscape the size of the state of Montana. It has been a unique year. It is a different paradigm with climate change. We need to reduce our carbon footprint. The Tribes are developing a climate change coordinator position. It has far-reaching effects on everything we do and our resources and how we live in the future. He encouraged everyone to do their part, such as planting more trees, carpooling, using mass transit, and electrify transportation. Water is critical. There is an issue going on in Canada where mining is out of control. It is impacting the fishery there. The Kootenai River in our territory in the Upper Columbia is causing permanent damage. We are trying to get Canada, the government, and British Columbia to monitor and change tech mining in Canada. The Kootenai River fish are born without jaws, gill plates, and are not reproducing. It is building selenium and is a hidden nightmare in the river system. The work we do to restore fisheries is failing because of the mountain top mining in the Elk River. There are five large coal mines that are shipping materials to China and South Korea to manufacture vehicles. We are trying to get them to be responsible and shift the paradigm. Everyone's support on this important issue is critical. It is our responsibility to make clean, clear, and drinkable water. Part of the compact is getting some State sections and private land back to us. We will be shifting our focus a little bit. The State sections are not in jeopardy of development or being subdivided. We are trying to get back as much private land as possible. The Tribes may do some creative things to get it done, but it is in our best interest to own as much land as we can get to buy our reservation back. Tom reminded everyone that the Tribal Health Department is offering shots today and there is still some breakfast available.

Chairman McDonald recognized individuals who recently retired from CSKT: James Clairmont – Fire 5/1/23; Lloyd Irvine – Court 5/25/23; Bonnie Hewankorn – L&O 7/13/23; James Auld – Maintenance 7/22/23; Mark Padilla – DHRD 9/1/23; Donald Garcia – TERS 9/19/23; Lyle Garcia – TERS 9/19/23; Gary Acevedo – DHRD 9/28/23; and Jolene Gauthier – SKHA 9/28/23.

Ellie Bundy and **Martin Charlo** recognized individuals who are presently working that have 30 years or more service with CSKT: Arthur Soukkala-NRD (1/9/91); Loretta Hoots-NRD (1/22/91); Rocky Deranleau-DHRD (2/4/91); Reuben Mathias-DHRD (3/10/91); Danielle Lefthand-KCC (4/28/91); Thompson Smith-SPCC (7/8/91); Richard Janssen-NRD (7/28/91); Coral Tapia-TERS (8/19/91); Jody Jones-ECS (8/20/91); Sharon Haynes-THD (9/10/91); Maryrose Morigeau-NRD (9/15/91); Vernon Finley-KCC (10/23/91); Mary Charlo-ECS (11/7/91); Thomas Johnson-OTS (11/7/91); Melanie Piedalue-Personnel (11/14/91); Gloria Quiver-THD (12/28/91); Bert Carpentier-SKHA (2/3/92); Ronald Swaney-Fire (2/24/92); Pamela McDonald-Legal (3/1/92); Nicole Trahan-THD (3/22/92); Sharon Matt-THD (4/1/92); Lytle Gillin-SKHA (4/29/92); Rene Wildcat-Probation (5/26/92); Steven Buffalo-THD (6/11/92); Michael Dolson-Council (6/22/92); Erma Haynes-Enrollment (7/13/92); Kelly Pierre-THD (7/21/92); Rodney Couture-Forestry (8/9/92); Claudette Bird-TERS (10/19/92); Emery Wilson-NRD (11/9/92); Todd Couture-Fire (12/4/92); Dana Hewankorn-Admin (1/4/93); Michael Pierre-DHRD (1/9/93); Genevieve Morigeau-THD (3/5/93); Wain Lefthand-Preservation (6/24/93); Vernon Fisher-L&O (7/5/93); Wilhelmina Keenan-NRD (8/18/93); Mildred Woodcock-ECS (8/25/93); Michael Hertz-THD (10/1/93); and Lisa Shourds-Admin (10/28/93).

Chairman McDonald recognized Ann Miller, Tribal Defenders Office, for receiving the Legacy Award from the Department of Justice.

Chairman McDonald recognized Elliot Adams for receiving the Professional of the Year from the Health and Human Services District 5.

Chairman McDonald presented the Tribal Chairman's Award to Ruth Swaney for her years of service to the Tribes. Ruth has dedicated her entire career to the CSKT.

The **Yamcut Drum Group** sang an honor song.

Joe Durglo, Tribal Health Department, reminded everyone that flu shots are available in the lobby today. Joe gave an update on the Assisted Living Center that the Tribes purchased. The Retreat is located in Polson and overlooks the bay. It is a 13-bed facility. The Tribes took ownership on July 31 and received a license to operate the facility. The Tribes purchased the adjacent lots for possible future expansion for elderly care. The Tribes' licensure started on July 31 and

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they began providing services at 6:00 p.m. that date. The Tribal Health Department operates the facility. There are currently 10 residents, so there are some rooms available. The residents are independent for the most part and are provided services when necessary. They began giving COVID shots at the pharmacy today. The department continues to follow the CDC guidelines and can provide COVID tests. **Chairman McDonald** advised the booster shots are not available, but the shingles and pneumonia shots are.

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

Jim Malatare left the meeting for the remainder of the day to go to a skatepark meeting in Arlee.

Carole Lankford and **Martin Charlo** gave an update on the plan to build skateparks in the communities and showed a video. The money must be spent by 2026. There will be a skatepark in Arlee, Ronan, and Pablo. They hope to be shovel-ready by spring. Jeff is providing \$100,000 for each skatepark site and will help the Tribes raise money. Terrence Lozeau did a petition and received 1,000 signatures supporting a skatepark. There are liability concerns, but those concerns can be mitigated. There are already skateparks in Polson and St. Ignatius. **Chairman McDonald** commented there will be an endowment fund set up for maintenance, insurance, and O&M costs. **Martin Charlo** would like to have the infrastructure in place before proceeding with a skatepark.

Brad Pluff and **Dana Comes At Night**, Tribal Court, gave an update on the Healing & Wellness Court. The Healing & Wellness Court was formed to divert people involved in the criminal justice system due to substance abuse disorders. The court plans on supporting people instead of punishing them. They must have cases pending in Tribal Court; they can negotiate to get their case moved to the Healing Court. It is screened by the Coordinator to see if they are ready to participate in the Healing Court, and then their case will be diverted into the Healing Court. A background check will be required to make sure there are no pending matters in other jurisdictions. The team consists of the Healing Court Judge, the Prosecutors Office, Tribal Defenders Office, Law & Order, Probation, a Tribal Council Representative, Tribal Health Department, and a Cultural Liaison. The participants will receive a certification of accomplishment. The plan is to give them gift cards as an incentive. All participants will be on a treatment plan. The Healing Court plans to have 10 participants. A Case Manager position will be hired to assist Dana. **Carole Lankford** introduced the participants of Never Alone Recovery. They graduated from the program and help our people.

Julie Cajune, Tribal Education Department, gave an update on the Tribal Civics Project. They are making 16 films with interviews on various topics, such as sovereignty, the 1855 Hell Gate Treaty, leadership and governance, land leadership, and economic sovereignty. Julie has been interviewing people in the

community and creating films. She played a video. Sharing our stories with the youth is important; they are our future leaders. Julie told a story about the land that the Tribes tried to get back, but it was sold. They tried again, but failed. It is important to hear the stories through film. It brings authenticity and accurate content and voices of our community into the classroom. It will be widely used by teachers. Tribal departments have requested copies for training their staff. There are study guides for each film. There will be some hard copies available and teachers can access it online. All the files will be digital, numbered, and organized. The project will be completed by the end of this year. **Jennifer Finley** thanked Julie for doing this project. It will help us exert our aboriginal rights. Nobody had ever compiled the years of service each Tribal Council member served and Jennifer appreciated Julie doing that research. She liked the poster on the water compact, and she suggested selling the posters at the Bison Range. **Thomas “Sonny” Lozeau** mentioned a court case. We ceded the land. There is misconception of the reservation and that is what the case represents. Our reservation was not created by the federal government; we ceded everything but this reservation. **Sam Barnaby** appreciated the presentation today. It is clear in the presentations and in the embodiment, and he applauded Julie for that. Instead of calling it Tribal Civics, we are talking about our community, sovereignty, and the empowerment of our tribal sovereignty being empowered. **Jennifer Finley** suggested having a two-day workshop at the Kwataqnuq Resort. She is not familiar with all the court cases involving the Tribes. Jennifer thinks the membership would appreciate a workshop to learn more about our tribal history.

Shay Ashley, Steven Morigeau, and Juanita Reed gave a presentation on support services that the Recovery Village provides. There is a male’s house in Polson and a female’s house in Pablo. The Recovery Village will be modeled under the other two houses and be based on long-term recovery. Sober living is a necessity for individuals coming out of treatment and there is a huge need in the community for this type of program. They appreciate the Tribes’ support. They house families. They are trying to change the fact that people are coming home to the same situation they left in. **Martin Charlo** mentioned peer mentoring is very important. Working for the Reentry Program grounded him. The stability of a safe home is critical for recovery. We, as a people, need to make sure we do not turn our backs on the people who are struggling with addiction and underlying issues such as mental health. You cannot incarcerate addiction or mental health issues out of someone. **Ellie Bundy** commended the group for their sobriety and congratulated them on Project 30. Ellie will support them any way she can. An individual informed council that she graduated from the program and it was a blessing for her. An individual talked about his journey and how the recovery program helped him become sober. He has gained employment and has begun a relationship with his daughter. An individual expressed his appreciation for this program. He just celebrated 18 months of sobriety and he is enrolled in Salish Kootenai College. **Sam Barnaby** commended the group and thanked them for

coming here. That is part of his campaign. We have people who are struggling. The number of deaths due to addictions is heartbreaking. We cannot shun our people away because of addiction; we have to welcome them. Sam wants to be there for the people.

The floor was opened for questions/comments from the membership.

Carolee Wenderoth discussed her concerns regarding a land issue. She has been away for five years and she still receives numerous phone calls and texts from tribal members about the lack of service they are receiving from the Tribal Lands Department. The importance of sovereignty and language was mentioned today and sovereignty comes with responsibility. Carolee supports bringing land back to tribal ownership. The voice of individual land is the Superintendent and the authority comes from the Region. If tribal members want to gift deed, sell, or give a right of way, the ultimate decision is the individual who owns their individual land. There are tribal members with heirs that cannot own tribal land so the nontribal member inherits the land in fee status. In other cases, individuals can choose to remove the trust status to avoid a probate. There is an elderly woman who is trying to remove a portion of her land in trust to sell it to a family member in fee status. The process that came through is her concern. The individual has not been able to remove the trust status and the family is frustrated. The Tribal Lands Department plays the administrative role for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. They need to deliver a letter informing the person they have a right to an appeal. The Superintendent decides whether it is in the best interest of the individual and the Tribes. The Superintendent said he worked for the Tribes and not for the individual and all decisions have to be made by the Secretary. If that is the response, she wanted to know why that person is sitting over there in that position. There is a handbook and checklist that must be followed. The OST conducts audits and there will be a finding if they audit that file. Carolee was disappointed in the way that Roberta Decker's employment ended and that she was not among the list of employees who were recognized this morning. There is a misstep in our processes. **Carole Lankford** explained recognizing Roberta Decker was an oversight. The council thought she had already been recognized, but Bing Matt confirmed that she hadn't been. There was no ill will by the council. The Superintendent is a link in the process Carolee discussed. **Chairman McDonald** stated it was a misfortunate oversight not including Roberta in the recognitions this morning.

Thomas "Sonny" Lozeau commented this is not an isolated incident. His girlfriend's mother kept trying to sell her house and was told the paperwork was in Portland for two years. It never went to Portland. The Tribes did not want to let her take her land out of trust. They said they wanted to buy it, but then they did not end up buying it. They said they did not want the house and 5 acres, but they said they would purchase 15 acres. The house was rented out. The mother passed away in June. His girlfriend knows of 10 other elders in the same

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situation of trying to take their land out of trust to sell or give to their family members. There are 84 cases that are called Secretary Transfers. The land was taken illegally. They believed the Secretary had the authority to do it, but the 1948 Act required the consent of the landowners. Sonny has been dealing with this since May 1989. In 1984 the Tribes purchased the land. There is an incumbrance on the title so it is not a clear title. Tract 1610-A is the tract involving his father. His father never signed a letter. The Tribes gave Cub Dumontier a large sum of money and Tribal Tract 1375 with no incumbrances for land with an encumbrance, which is not allowed.

Thomas “Sonny” Lozeau appeared before the Tribal Council on behalf of his son Thomas on July 13, 2023. They were discussing Ordinance 40A (Revised) regarding Public Law 280, Subsection 2(f) regarding violations of the Civil Rights. The Tribal Council reserves the right to conduct an independent investigation to seek redress in a court of competent jurisdiction and review the ordinance of any such alleged offenses. Sonny read the council minutes from July 13. Thomas requested that a letter be sent to the Attorney General requesting an investigation into his case and a copy of the Attorney General’s response. Thomas is in the START Program and does not have access to anything to help defend himself. Sonny needs to figure out how to get enough money to take the needs to his son.

Thomas “Sonny” Lozeau discussed the last election where his ballot was not counted. The Superintendent was supposed to get back to him, but then he got busy with fire season and has not met with Sonny yet. Article III Section 6 states no person shall be a candidate for Tribal Council unless a member of the CSKT of the Flathead Reservation and resided in the district of his candidacy for one year preceding the election. The Tribal Council shall be the sole judge of its members. The Election Rules are inapplicable because there needs to be a constitutional amendment. Resolution No. 11 relates to the Corporate Charter from 1935. The Tribal Council carried a petition to gather signatures to put it to a vote whether we wanted a Corporate Charter. They succeeded and got a charter in April 1936. There are certain questions that must be asked through a referendum and voted on by the membership. The membership needs to vote on whether or not they want to have an at-large seat and that requires a constitutional amendment. The seat Tom McDonald is sitting in is illegal because it is an amendment to the constitution and requires a constitutional amendment. The tribal members are the only ones who can decide to have an at-large council seat. The Tribes cannot make and enforce those constitutional changes under the guise of Rules. It should have been Shelly Fyant’s seat that went to an at-large seat since her term was expiring at that time. It was a common scheme for Shelly to seek re-election so the council decided to put Bing Matt’s seat up for at-large. Sonny seeks to stop this election until the validity of the at-large seat is verified. The ordinance is approved by the Superintendent and Secretary. That is the troubling part because the resolutions and ordinances are how people are

getting enrolled, too. Within 90 days if the Secretary of Interior does not reject it, it is assumed that the Secretary of the Interior has approved it even though no letter approving it has been sent. Sonny is going to file a mandamus in Federal Court. **Len TwoTeeth** responded in regard to the letter about Thomas's situation, after that discussion with the Tribal Council it was determined that since the Tribal Legal Department cannot provide services to individual tribal members they could not send a letter, so we reached out to the ACLU to look into it and contact Sonny about it. The letter from the Legal Department was never sent. Sonny requested that in writing. Len commented the other concerns that Sonny mentioned have been brought up in the past. He wants all the issues put in writing so the council can respond to each one. This is not a venue where we can go back and forth and argue who is correct. Len thinks Sonny has some valid points so he wants the concerns in writing so the council can respond to them appropriately.

Ruth Swaney thanked people for getting her to where she is today. She thanked her family and the family that raised her. None of her children grew up with two parents, and none of her grandchildren have that either. Ruth is thankful for her mother. Ruth could give council a list of people that should be recognized. Some are employees and some are community members. Ruth looked at the agenda and asked Jennifer Trahan who was receiving the Chairman's Award because it just indicated it was a tribal member. Ruth is honored to have worked with so many great people. She came here in 1984 while she was pregnant with her daughter and she was working in the Personnel Department. She got to work with and learn from Teresa Wall-McDonald. Then she worked with George Cowan, Kathy Teegarden, Margie Irvine, Anna Whiting-Sorrell, Joe Dupuis, Jane Clairmont, Vern Clairmont, Rick Eneas, and Greg Spahr. She gives credit to those people for teaching, coaching, and mentoring her. Ruth was thankful for many tribal employees, as well. She remembers Bing Matt when he worked at KHJCC. She appreciates the opportunity to work on the veteran recognition. Laurence does a wonderful job with veterans. Ruth appreciates the support for that committee. The chairman issued an order about the quarterly meal and proclaimed the meals should be breakfast since that is his favorite meal. She thanked Les Trahan and Carmelita Matt for their help. Ruth thanked the council for the great work they do. The council used to do the employee recognitions during the quarterly council meeting. Roberta Decker deserves recognition. Her vast knowledge will be hard to replace. Ruth plans on retiring in 2027 and she hopes her mother will still be here then. She hopes someone will come along and fill her shoes when she retires. Ruth was overwhelmed by the appreciation and recognition today. Years ago, Carole Lankford had nominated Ruth's youngest daughter for the Tribal Chairman's Award for her advocacy on the mascot issue. Her daughter was stoked about Ruth receiving the Tribal Chairman's Award. **Chairman McDonald** wants to hear Ruth's suggestions. Ruth is being very humble and had great role models who taught her a lot. Ruth always had an inquisitive mind and seeks the truth. She does the research and her due

diligence. Ruth represents a lot for the Tribes and has a very important role within the organization.

Carolee Wenderoth congratulated the Tribal Council on establishing a Youth Council. The White House Tribal Nation Summit is coming up soon and she will let the council know when the date has been set for that. There will be a Youth Council Summit and she would like the CSKT Youth Council to participate.

Jesse Nenemay had some questions about the 60,000 acres of State land and a school that the Tribes were supposed to get. **Chairman McDonald** responded that the legislation requires 36,000 acres and part of that could be school trust lands on the reservation. There is not enough of those that meet the mitigation criteria, so there is a portion that will need to be private land that comes into tribal ownership. The process involves the feds. Forest Service, BLM, or other federal property off the reservation needs to be identified, so it is a three-way system. They are identifying off-reservation land that the State might want to take. We will also focus on private land. The Tribes will try to get the private land as quickly as possible. It allows the Tribes to buy back land. Tom was not aware of anything about a school being a part of the agreement.

Jesse Nenemay talked about years ago, there was a buffalo herd and people were allowed to take one. As tribal people it seems we should look to opening our lands to bison. The Treaty says cattle grazing and horses on open land, but he is not sure how much open land we have left. Jesse would like the land to go back to being native with plants and animals. There were 60 million bison and they were replaced with cattle. It would be good to open our lands to the plants and animals. He would like to see more time and effort spent on bringing the buffalo back on our lands. Jesse wants to have some long-term solutions for our children and all of our assets, such as the dam, that need to be protected. We need to start promoting our language. There is a need for K-8 schooling. We are getting our education from the public schools. Jesse would like to see us get our own people for the future for the language and our cultural ways. Termination comes up in the school and that is not right. The sustainability of our land is most important to him. We use this land and never take too much and we always give back. We need to be the example for other Indigenous people. The council holds the power for this reservation. Years ago, the Tribal Council was appointed by our elders. Our land is for the children and the animals. We need to hold on to our reservation and hold on to all our assets. He suggested looking at the instream flow from the Upper Flathead River because there is less water coming from the lake. We need to hang on to our assets and pass them down to our children. We have a nice reservation and we should be able to feed our people, house our people, and provide them with clean water and clean air. There is a lot of money going into that canal. Water is important and water is life. Jesse appreciates what the Tribal Council does for the Tribes. **Chairman McDonald**

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agreed with Jesse and thanked him for his comments today. Tom would like to start our own subsistence bison herd on the reservation.

The closing **prayer** was offered by Bing Matt.

Council **adjourned** at 2:04 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Martin A. Charlo
Tribal Council Secretary