

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

Volume 23 Number 24
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: January 26, 2023
Approved: January 31, 2023

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Martin Charlo, Secretary (Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Conference – Portland, Oregon).

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.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for January 24, 2023 were presented for approval.

MOTION by Len TwoTeeth to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for January 24, 2023, with corrections. Seconded by Jennifer Finley. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

The **agenda** was presented for approval. **Chairman McDonald** asked for a headcount on who is planning to provide testimony tomorrow. Patricia Hibbeler prepared some comments. **Jennifer Finley** will get registered to testify.

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

Stephen Smallsalmon, Nkwusm, informed council there is going to be a coyote story tomorrow and he shared a story with the council. Council was invited to attend the storytelling. Stephen talked about the importance of respecting the elders. Stephen and all elders want to be respected. Nkwusm has been existence for 21 years and Stephen has been a teacher there for 20 years. We should never let go of our Indian ways. Nkwusm needs to have more room and money. There are enough teachers that know how to teach the language and there was talk

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about having a second Nkwusm in Ronan. Stephen asked about the fence at Nkwusm. **Council** told him the paperwork was completed so it should be getting installed in the near future.

Bing Matt was asked by Homer Courville to deliver a report to council about what the Mission Valley Honor Guard has been doing this past year. The report will be sent to the national office so they can hopefully get some funding. It shows the memorials they attended for veterans, members of the Honor Guard that were lost, what their expenditures were spent on, and the donations they received. **Len TwoTeeth** talked about the Honor Guard being an intricate part of what we do here and posting the colors is one of the most important ceremonies. Len would like to establish an annual donation of \$10,000 to be included in the Tribes' annual budget to help support the Honor Guard. **No action taken.**

Council met in **executive session.**

Greg Spahr, Financial Management; **Ron Carrell**, **Pam Jurgenson**, **David Wiesehan**, **Luis Velazquez**, **Deb DuMontier**, and **Rae Luckett**, Bureau of Trust Funds Administration, Office of Trust Funds Investments; requested to meet with council in **executive session** to provide a report.

Council reconvened into **regular session.**

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

Miranda Burland, Tribal Education Department, presented for approval the 2023-2024 Higher Education Handbook. May 1, 2023 is the deadline for submission of applications. Student appeals will no longer go through the Tribal Education Committee and instead will be reviewed by the Department Head and the Director of Tribal Member Services.

MOTION by Mike Dolson to approve the 2023-2024 Higher Education Handbook. Seconded by Terry Pitts. Carried, unanimous (8 present – Len TwoTeeth out of the room).

Chairman McDonald gave a report on the governor's state of address. Tom was able to meet the cabinet folks. Troy Downing, Auditor, wants to give a follow-up presentation to the council. Tom had a discussion with the Department of Livestock regarding Yellowstone bison management. Tom met with Joe Read about his hunting bill, and he spent some time with the governor. The governor received a standing ovation on his comments about getting the debt paid being meaningful for future legislative sessions and taxpayers. There was also a section on MMIP, which was well received.

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Terry Pitts thanked Ellie Bundy for setting up the meeting with the Law & Order Task Force and he thought it was a good discussion. Ellie does a good job keeping council updated and involved. Terry thanked the task force for all they do.

Chairman McDonald mentioned the governor talked about the community college in Miles City and the educational opportunities they are engaged in. It does many of the things the council has spoken to the Salish Kootenai College Board of Directors about. They focus on training, online learning, and getting high school students credit for working in vocational trades. Tom would like to encourage SKC to expand into those areas. Miles City has a meat-cutting program for certified meat cutting as part of the curriculum. Tom encouraged the council to look at their website.

Miranda Burland, Tribal Education Department; **Jason Sargent**, **Kristen McClure**, and **Chantel Moore**, St. Ignatius School District, presented the annual Indian Education Report for the St. Ignatius School District. **Mike Dolson** requested a copy of the Indian Education For All Handbook. Jason will send it to him. **Terry Pitts** asked if the school district has a plan to get parents involved. Mr. Sargent's first priority is to get the IEC back in place, as well as Title VII. **Miranda Burland** stated on February 1, 2023, there is going to be an IEC training at SKC. All school districts received an invite and so did the former IEC members and parents to try to recruit committee members. **Chairman McDonald** thinks it is critical to have the school's top administrative officials participate in those events as much as possible.

Miranda Burland, Tribal Education Department; **Mike Cutler**, **Andy Fors**, and **Tom DiGiallonardo**, Polson School District, presented the annual report for the Polson School District. **Terry Pitts** asked if the school had a cultural coordinator. The school does not have one, but they would like to. The County Attorney does not want to enforce the attendance laws. The School Resource Officer is too busy with other issues so he cannot go door knocking trying to get kids to go to school. **Miranda Burland** advised TED has an advocate, Alexandra Plant, who can assist with the attendance and other meetings between the parent and school (for Tribal students). The department has a Student Engagement Team, made up of Tribal Departments, who can assist with student attendance concerns. **Terry Pitts** talked about PIR Day and he recommended having a mandatory session with TED and school staff to give that information (names, numbers) to educate the staff on cultural events. It would be beneficial. Tom and Andy talked about the Immersion program. The school is in its first week of the semester of the Indigenous Immersion program. Ten kids are participating in it. The program tries to flip what a traditional school setting would be and be more directed on experience and in those experience what students are learning through content. The details of this new program are still being ironed out. Students can earn 14 credits for that class. Students can also earn credits

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outside this program. It is an experience-based learning and the school is finding other pathways to earn credits. There are 4 content area teachers helping to develop the curriculum. The school district will be running a bond election on May 2, 2023. The school would like help from the Tribes to promote the bond. The funding would be used to build a Career Technical Training Center for those students that are not necessarily going to college but can have an education towards whatever it may be. The school will provide a dinner and presentation on this in Elmo. The school district has received \$500,000 in donations so far. The total cost of the project is \$39 million.

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

MOTION by Mike Dolson to accept the Annual Reports for the St Ignatius School District and Polson School District. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, unanimous (7 present – Ellie Bundy and Jennifer Finley out of the room).

Council **recessed** the regular meeting at 1:13 p.m. to conduct an Energy Keepers, Inc. Shareholder Representative meeting.

Council **reconvened** into the regular meeting at 2:18 p.m.

Whisper Camel-Means, Amanda Bourdon, and Kari Kingery, Natural Resources Department, requested approval to advertise a 30-day public comment period for the proposed changes to the Tribal Member Regulations.

MOTION by Mike Dolson to approve the advertisement of a 30-day public comment period for the proposed changes to the Tribal Member Regulations. Seconded by Carole Lankford. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

Carole Lankford was contacted by a tribal member that wants a free-use permit to have a wedding at Mission Dam. **Amanda Bourdon** advised the individual can provide the information to her and then Amanda can present the request to council.

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

Renee Joachim, Personnel Department, presented for approval Amendment 1 to Tribal Personnel Ordinance 69D. The changes were made based on council direction. The changes included changing the language regarding personnel action forms to be initiated by departments, the addition of holidays for Juneteenth and Indigenous People’s Day, paid leave due to any emergency leave applies to all employees within the organization, the leave sharing policy was changed to 360 work hours allowed per calendar year, the market-based increases language was changed from “shall receive” to “may receive”, and

changed the steps in the old pay plan when employees are placed in an acting capacity to line up with the minimum, mid, and maximum points of classification and cannot exceed the mid-point when placed in a position in an acting capacity.

MOTION by Mike Dolson to approve Amendment 1 to Tribal Personnel Ordinance 69D, as presented. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, 9 for; 0 opposed; 0 not voting.

ORDINANCE 69D, AMENDMENT 1

(Due to the length of the amendment, it does not appear in the minutes; a copy may be obtained from the Office of Records Management).

Council met in **executive session**. **Ruth Swaney**, Financial Management, joined the discussion.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

MOTION by Jennifer Finley to adopt the recommendation from Administration for updates to the tribal council pay schedule to reflect the recommended index and the longevity schedule as presented. Seconded by Tom McDonald. Carried, 8 for; 1 opposed (Len TwoTeeth).

Jennifer Finley, for the record, "I support it because in no other place in our organization is there a case where someone on the job gets paid the same in their first year as someone that's been in the job for 30 years, so I support longevity pay for the knowledge returning council members bring to our organization and people."

Council **adjourned** at 3:32 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, January 31, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Martin A. Charlo
Tribal Council Secretary