

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

Volume 23 Number 55
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: June 15, 2023
Approved: June 20, 2023

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mike Dolson (Personal Time Off); Carole Lankford (Personal Time Off); and James “Bing” Matt (Inter-Tribal Timber Council Meeting - 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 9:04 a.m. Quorum established.

The meeting was opened with a **prayer** by Terry Pitts.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for June 13, 2023 were presented for approval.

MOTION by Ellie Bundy to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for June 13, 2023, with corrections. Seconded by Jennifer Finley. Carried, unanimous (7 present).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

MOTION by Jennifer Finley to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Ellie Bundy. Carried, unanimous (7 present).

Chairman McDonald asked the council members to review the interview follow-up questions that were drafted. Council will follow up with the Utility Board next Tuesday.

Chairman McDonald mentioned the situation of two different weather patterns going on and the extreme drought in the Flathead Basin, which could create a conflict with keeping Flathead Lake at full pool this year. There is an expectation that the lake will be at full pool, but the lake levels will begin dropping by the

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end of this month. The public will be educated and a presentation will be provided to the Flathead Lakers.

Martin Charlo gave a report on the Salish and Kootenai Housing Authority's ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house for the first five of 47 high-quality, affordable homes built as part of its "Quality Homes for Quality of Life" campaign to address homelessness and overcrowding on the Reservation. These five new homes were constructed on Agate Court in Pablo. SKHA is in the process of constructing 13 more new homes at the Maggie Ashley Trailer Park in Pablo. The housing assessment that was conducted indicated there is a need to have 2,400 homes in order to address the homelessness and overcrowding. SKHA plans to build new homes in each community.

Martin Charlo reminded council that the MMIP walk will be going through Pablo today and will be gathering at the veteran memorial site. Martin asked the council to take a break from the meeting to acknowledge the group when they arrive.

Tracey Carpentier requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss a personal matter. **Alex Dreussi**, Tribal Defenders Office; **Patricia Hibbeler**, Tribal Member Services; and **Louis Fiddler**, Law & Order; were present for discussion.

Dan Finley requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss a personal matter.

Council met in **executive session**.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

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

(Council took a break to acknowledge the MMIP walk participants.)

Rob McDonald, Natural Resources Department; **Stacey Sherwin**, Salish Kootenai College; and **Melinda Charlo**, Indian Preference Office; discussed the memorandum of agreement between the Division of Engineering and Water Resources and Salish Kootenai College for an eight-week ironworkers training program. It is a free training and the participants will receive a stipend. The demand for these skills will continue to grow. **Jim Malatare** would like to know when it starts so he can stop by. The training will start on August 22, 2023. The training opportunity will be advertised. The Indian Preference Office and Salish Kootenai College will screen the applications and select 10 participants. Applicants will not be required to pass a pre-hire drug test.

Velda Shelby and **Janet Camel**, Economic Development Office, requested to

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meet with council in **executive session** to discuss a departmental matter. **Jace Smith**, Cattle Producer, was present for discussion.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to proceed with the USDA grant and approve a noncompetitive contract to retain Friesla, LLC, for facility modular design, equipment, and plant operations for the tribal meat processing plant. Seconded by Terry Pitts. Carried, unanimous (7 present).

MOTION by Terry Pitts to approve a noncompetitive contract with Morrison-Maierle Engineering and MMW to provide services for the site prep and engineering infrastructure design work at the tribal meat processing plant in Ronan. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (7 present).

Dan Decker, John Harrison, Michael Wheeler, Lynsey Gaudioso, and Katie Jones, Legal Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

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

Thomas “Sonny” Lozeau discussed issues regarding Public Law 280. Dan Decker, Michael Wheeler and Katie Jones, Legal Department, were present for the discussion. Sonny had received letters from the Area Office, previous chairman Vernon Finley and Chairman McDonald. Sonny talked about the November 2, 2017 letter he received from Vernon Finley. The council has held no educational sessions with the membership about Public Law 280. He talked about the termination policies from the 1950s to 1960s, Ordinance 40A, resolutions, tribal constitution, and the corporate charter. Sonny believes the tribal government has failed to follow the proper processes and violated the tribal constitution. He filed a writ of habeas corpus in federal court and is drafting a writ of mandamus. Sonny is doing a petition drive to rescind Ordinance 40A (Revised) in its entirety. **Ethan Friedlander** talked about justice reform and sentencing guidelines. He does not want the membership to fear the justice system. People need to get the appropriate help for them to get on the right path instead of being jailed. Ethan mentioned that it is illegal to alienate tribal members from their reservation, but Lake County prohibited a tribal elder to return. **Chairman McDonald** commented that the Tribes are reviewing the justice system to make improvements to meet the needs of the membership. They are still in the factfinding stage and figuring out how to finance it. The Council wants to find the resources to help tribal members get the services they need. We need to correct the things we have control over. **Shelly Hendrickson** informed council that she has family members in the system and she shared

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their stories. There needs to be meetings for the people who have family members in the prison system. Our people are being kept in the hole for years and are not offered treatment. It is time for the Tribes to tend to the people. There needs to be more help at the Re-entry Program. **Martin Charlo** thinks the Re-entry Program is the best solution for people coming out of incarceration. Salish Kootenai Housing Authority is working on having more sober living houses. It is important to have tribal members a seat at the table to help address these matters. Martin appreciates Sonny for being an advocate on these matters. **Sonny Lozeau** informed council that he has had broken windows at his house that have been there for the past 12 years due to criminal activity. The cops had the perpetrators, but nothing ever happened. Salish Kootenai Housing Authority said they would do something about it too, but nothing ever happened. Sonny requested that the council repeal Ordinance 40A due to no legal standing and just be under federal law. Martial Law could be established to bring things into line. There is no legal document to allow us to be under Public Law 280 under the State's jurisdiction.

Chairman McDonald welcomed members of the University Congressional Church who are observing the council meeting today.

Pat Matt, Jr., Department of Human Resources Development, informed council that the Families First program's primary objective is to serve individuals at risk for child abuse and neglect, prevention, and reunification. The program provides services to parents struggling with addiction. **Carolyn Belling, Stephanie Carver** and **Tiffany Stone**, Hope Centers Ministries, gave a presentation on the Montana Women's Hope Center in Clancy, Montana. The Hope Center Ministries was established in 2007 and is a faith-based addictions treatment center with 42 locations throughout the world and will be opening 7 more centers this year. There was interest in establishing a center on the reservation. They offer a one-year treatment program. **Shirly Felsman, Rhonda Felsman, Desire Yellow Owl,** and **Miranda Mahkuk** provided testimonials on their journey to recovery. **Pastor Chad Hoffman** talked about the Hope Center model and gave an overview of what having a Women's Hope Center on the reservation would look like. The Cornerstone Church would serve as the sponsoring church family. They would need to find a location on the reservation to house a minimum of 34 women and raise an initial investment of \$290,000. The center received a financial commitment of \$80,000 already. The center offers culture and tradition. The Hope Center is self-sustaining and receives grant funding, holds fundraisers twice yearly, and receives funding from the residents in the program. **Chairman McDonald** commented that many people are incarcerated due to addiction and mental health issues, and jail is not the appropriate place for them. **Sonny Lozeau** commented addiction has put people into predicaments. He would like to gather information about what led people to try drugs for the first time. Sonny wants to have prevention/intervention programs implemented before people get to the point of addiction. **Council** will evaluate how they can provide assistance.

Jennifer Trahan presented a request from Sadie Stops for a change of duty for tribal employees Bob Woodcock, Roxanne Acevedo, Andrea Adams, and Carla Linsebigler to attend the Language Camp next week.

Mrs. Mitchell informed council that her brother Robert Mitchell is in the tribal jail and he has some medical issues. The discussion continued in **executive session**.

Council met in **executive session**. **Craige Couture** and **Louis Fiddler**, Law & Order, joined the discussion.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

MOTION by Len TwoTeeth to grant a change of duty, with supervisor approval, for tribal employees Bob Woodcock, Roxanne Acevedo, Andrea Adams, and Carla Linsebigler to attend the Language Camp next week. Seconded by Jennifer Finley. Carried, unanimous (7 present).

Council discussed the agenda for the July quarterly council meeting.

Council **adjourned** at 3:48 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Martin A. Charlo
Tribal Council Secretary