

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

Volume 23 Number 79
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: September 19, 2023
Approved: September 26, 2023

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tom McDonald, Chairman (Tribal Business – Travel); and James “Bing” Matt (Attending U.S. Forest Service and Tribal Wilderness Society Conference – Bozeman, Montana).

OTHERS PRESENT: Jableau Arlee, Tribal Council Support; and James Steele, Sr., Sergeant at Arms.

The meeting was called to **order**. Quorum established.

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

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for September 14, 2023 were presented for approval.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for September 14, 2023, with corrections. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

MOTION by Jim Malatare to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

Catherine Baylor requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss a personal matter. **Jody Cahoon Perez** and **Sid Shourds**, Salish Kootenai Housing Authority, joined the discussion.

Council met in **executive session**. **Jody Cahoon Perez** and **Sid Shourds**, Salish Kootenai Housing Authority, were present for discussion.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Ellie Bundy informed council that she was contacted by a community member about the Community Center kitchen in St. Ignatius. They are redoing the parking lot at the Long House and need to use the kitchen and gym. They are having a difficult time determining who is in charge of the facility. Maintenance does not get in the kitchen very often and there is a lack of equipment in there. It is not sufficient to cook meals for wakes. The Fitness Center has nothing to do with the upkeep and cleaning of the kitchen so she wanted to know who does. Nobody knows who is in charge of the kitchen. Ellie mentioned the possibility of having the Maintenance folks properly upkeep the gas ovens, exhaust fans, and deep fryer. **Len TwoTeeth** commented the issue is it occurred several years ago when they stocked the kitchen with pans, pots, and utensils and they walked out the door and nobody monitors that when they hold events there. That is why we no longer provide those supplies. Families bring in their own supplies to cook with. It is a task we need Facilities Maintenance to take over. **Carole Lankford** suggested locking the cabinets and have them get the key from the Commodity Office or have the Commodity Office keep the pots, pans, and utensils and check them out when a family uses them. **Len TwoTeeth** will follow up with Lisa Shourds.

Carole Lankford mentioned an issue going on with an employee and the funeral staff when the Community Center is closed for a funeral. **Len TwoTeeth** commented there is no reason for the staff to have that attitude and he will follow up with Joe Durglo. **Martin Charlo** did not know why we wouldn't have the staff working in the building do this. The facilities in St. Ignatius are open seven days a week, so why couldn't those people that get sent home due to the facility being closed for a funeral could be there deep cleaning and doing things and helping out. **Len TwoTeeth** agreed with those comments. He will follow up with Joe Durglo. **Ellie Bundy** mentioned the need to acknowledge the individuals that volunteer to cook and they have no equipment or supplies to work with and the stoves do not always work. It is frustrating for the cooks.

Carole Lankford informed council that she was contacted by Linda Inmee. Linda was told to get Dire Need to pay her power bill, but she has to become delinquent first. When the bills get higher she will not be able to afford to pay them and she is not eligible for LIHEAP. Linda was hoping the Energy Keepers, Inc. dividend would help offset her bill. Once Linda applies for \$500 from Dire Need after she becomes delinquent, Carole asked if she would receive the entire \$500 or just the delinquency amount. **Len TwoTeeth** responded that the policy is to pay vendors directly. Len advised we will help her out the best we can and let her know how that policy works.

Martin Charlo will give a report on the Montana Environmental Information Center event he attended when time allows.

Danny Tenenbaum, Montana State Senate Candidate, introduced himself to the council and let them know he is a democratic candidate for the Senate District 46. The district covers the southern one-third of the reservation in Lake and Sanders Counties. Mr. Tenenbaum currently serves as an Associate Justice of the Tribal Appellate Court. He wants to have an open line of communication with the Tribes. He has served in the state legislature and worked on housing legislation, mental health, and the Warm Springs facility, and he wants to build on that experience to pass bipartisan legislation on core issues facing everyone in the state. Medicaid Expansion is expiring and he wants to work on that issue. There are things that will come up involving Flathead Lake and it is important to have a strong voice to make people understand treaty rights and tribal sovereignty. If he is elected he will stay in contact in the people he represents. He holds events in the communities. **Len TwoTeeth** commented that a major concern of the Tribes is fentanyl. It is killing our people on a daily basis. We all have challenges how to address it. He would like Danny to keep that on his priority list. We need resources to address it. **Jennifer Finley** appreciated Mr. Tenenbaum coming in today. Since he works for us, he has inside knowledge that other people do not have. Some people do not even know the basics of the Tribes. Jennifer was glad Danny knows Shane and Jordan and she is happy he advocates for mental health issues. The basis of drug abuse and high suicide rates is due to the lack of mental health resources in Montana. **Carole Lankford** commented that the biggest issue facing our community is Medicaid Expansion and she is happy Mr. Tenenbaum has that on his radar. She will be attending a meeting next week to work on an action plan. Carole hopes he will keep an open mind about the Tribes and the issues that are important to us. **Martin Charlo** appreciated him coming in. The Tribes no longer endorse candidates. Danny has been a good ally for the CSKT. **Mr. Tenenbaum** stated another issue with a lot of misinformation during this past legislative session was the Indian Child Welfare Act. There was a great bill that codified that and the Supreme Court did not reverse it. He worked to ensure everyone across the political spectrum understood that Act, its history, and its importance to tribes. **Len TwoTeeth** let Danny know that the Tribes have designated sites on tribal land for people running for public office to post campaign signs. Mr. Tenenbaum was referred to the Tribal Lands Department to obtain a permit if he is interested in posting political campaign signs on tribal property.

Scott Johnston, Natural Resources Department, requested approval of a letter of support for the application for funding from the Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant. The funding will be used to complete the US Highway 93 corridor improvements. The funding amount has not been determined yet, but it could be up to \$68 million for the construction and design. CSKT will partner with the Montana Department of Transportation on this project, if funded. The application will go out next week.

MOTION by Mike Dolson to approve the letter of support for the application for funding from the Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant. Seconded by Ellie Bundy. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

Len TwoTeeth would like Scott to get scheduled on a future council agenda to provide an update on some projects. He wants an update on the walking trail from Elmo to Big Arm and some other projects. Len will get him scheduled on the agenda in the near future.

Barry Hanson, Natural Resources Department, requested approval to acquire a 38' gillnetting boat for trade of a 28' boat and \$50,000. The existing boat broke down over the summer. Two boats are needed. The small boat is not effective or safe. There is sufficient funding in the existing budget. They fish and process daily and employ 12 people. **Terry Pitts** asked about the maintenance. Barry said the company that they purchased the boat from works with them but it is a challenge to have someone locally. Len TwoTeeth thought it would be a good idea to have a maintenance person on staff that knows how to maintain boats. Terry recommended Barry contact Tracy Burland to do the maintenance of the boats.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to authorize the Natural Resources Department to acquire a 38' gillnetting boat for trade of a 28' boat and \$50,000. Seconded by Ellie Bundy. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

Ruth Swaney, Financial Management, presented a request for the purchase of capital equipment consisting of two patrol vehicles for Fish & Game. The department had an unexpected failure of a vehicle. The cost is \$100,000 and there are sufficient funds in the existing budget.

MOTION by Ellie Bundy to approve the purchase of capital equipment consisting of two patrol vehicles for Fish & Game. Seconded by Jim Malatare. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

Joe Durglo and **John Wheeler**, Tribal Health Department, requested approval of a one-year contract with Moving Mountain Therapy Center to provide physical therapy to children and occupational therapy one day per week for a not-to-exceed amount of \$275,000. **Len TwoTeeth** questioned why services would only be provided one day per week. Joe explained they have other clientele and one day per week should support the workload. Len questioned if this service should have been advertised. Joe responded it was not advertised because this company specializes in pediatrics. The department checked with the Indian Preference Office and there were no tribal businesses that provide this type of service.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to approve a one-year contract with Moving Mountain Therapy Center to provide physical therapy to children and

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occupational therapy for a not-to-exceed amount of \$275,000. Seconded by Jennifer Finley. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

Joe Durglo and **John Wheeler**, Tribal Health Department, requested approval to send a tribal flag to the Spokane Veterans Honoring. It was the **consensus** of council to send a tribal flag. **Len TwoTeeth** stated Laurence Kenmille will be attending the honoring so he can take the flag with him.

Joe Durglo, Tribal Health Department, met with council in **executive session** to discuss a personnel/departmental matter.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

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

Karen Renz, Department of Human Resources Development, requested a change of duty for tribal employees to attend the Enhanced Drug Identification for Parents training on September 21, 2023, at the Kwataqnuq Resort Casino from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Lunch will be served. **Len TwoTeeth** thought it was an important training and he suggested inviting both Elders Committees to the training session. Karen did not have a list of employees that plan on attending but she can provide one.

MOTION by Terry Pitts to grant tribal employees a change of duty, with supervisor approval, to attend the Enhanced Drug Identification for Parents training on September 21, 2023. Seconded by Jennifer Finley. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

Michelle Mitchell, **Amy Webster** and **Geri Hewankorn**, Tribal Education Department, requested approval of the revised Collections Policy for Three Chiefs. The policy was last updated in the 1990s. **Carole Lankford** would like some time to review the policy before taking action. **No action taken**. The request was tabled until Thursday to allow time for review.

Terry Pitts mentioned there are a few personal collectors that are not tribal members that have picked up some artifacts over the years and it would be nice to refer those names to Amy and for her to be a contact for them and let them know we are interested in those collections. **Amy Webster** thought that was a good idea.

Len TwoTeeth informed council that S&K Gaming is holding their annual retreat at The Lodge in Whitefish tomorrow and Thursday, if any council members are interested in attending.

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Dan Decker and **Staff**, Legal Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Council **adjourned** and is scheduled to meet again on Thursday, September 21, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Martin A. Charlo
Tribal Council Secretary