

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

Volume 24 Number 22  
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: January 16, 2024  
Approved: January 18, 2024

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tom McDonald, Vice-Chairman; Martin Charlo, Secretary; James Steele, Jr., Treasurer; Jennifer Finley; Carole Lankford; Jim Malatare; Danielle Matt; James “Bing” Matt; and Len TwoTeeth.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mike Dolson, Chairman (PROGRESS Act Meeting – Washington, DC).

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

The meeting was called to **order** at 9:01 a.m. Quorum established.

The meeting was opened with a **prayer** by James Steele, Jr.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for January 11, 2024 were presented for approval.

**MOTION** by James Steele, Jr. to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for January 11, 2024, with corrections. Seconded by Jim Malatare. Carried, unanimous (8 present – Bing Matt out of the room).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

**MOTION** by Jim Malatare to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (8 present – Bing Matt out of the room).

**Len TwoTeeth** gave an update on the Kootenai Elders meeting. The elders want to start meeting with the tribal council again on a monthly basis. There are some issues the elders want to be kept in the loop on. The moose permit issue was a topic of discussion and the elders do not want to see the Tribes issue permits for hunting; they feel it is a violation of their treaty right to hunt. The other issue is periodic requests for hunter assistance during the hunt; the elders feel that is a threat to a violation of our treaty rights. They are disappointed with the low number of council members that attend the elders meeting.

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**Len TwoTeeth** mentioned there are elders and family members in Elmo that want to know exactly what the Tribes are going to do about the fentanyl crisis. Those families are personally affected by the crisis and see it going rampant through the community. It seems it is only brought up when there is an overdose, but then nothing happens. Len wants to challenge the Tribal Health Department to help us with the drug crisis and issue a statement of emergency for the fentanyl crisis. Len wants the Tribal Health Department and Executive Team to come up with some options. **Tom McDonald** stated the council had asked Tribal Health to do a media campaign on fentanyl. It was the **consensus** of council to add fentanyl to the Health Committee meeting agenda. Tom recommended bringing in the Legal Department regarding the moose tag issue. **James Steele, Jr.** worked with Kathy Ross on the opioid meetings that were held in each community. There was great participation by the Chief of Police in St. Ignatius. It is a complex issue. People get kicked out of Housing and then they live in cars or move in with other family members and then that family gets evicted, and they end up stealing, etc. The program also did some radio spots. Tribal Health is working with tribal members and other entities to address the fentanyl crisis.

**James Steele, Jr.** wanted a status report on Jo Morigeau's concerns regarding her LIHEAP application.

**James Steele, Jr.** discussed the Warming Centers. It was for tribal members only, but then it was changed to where all community members can stay but tribal members get first priority.

**Carole Lankford** encouraged the council members to attend the Never Alone Recovery Support Services meetings and she would like the Tribes to provide a bigger building for the group to hold meetings.

**Carole Lankford** informed council that Rosie Hewankorn sent her an email about the LIHEAP process. Carole would like Patricia Hibbeler to bring that in. The council used to set the amounts for LIHEAP and she is not sure why that no longer happens. Carole wants a review of the LIHEAP rules and applications for elders.

**Carole Lankford** informed council that Harold Paul maintains he turned in an application for the elders payment but they cannot find it. Policy does not allow the payment to be reissued. Harold was going to use that money to pay for his insurance, so maybe it can be paid through the Dire Need program. Carole requested a letter be sent to Mr. Paul.

**Jennifer Finley** announced she will be holding a district meeting on February 2, at 9:00 a.m., at the S&K Technologies building in Polson. Tribal Health Paid Care was invited to attend the meeting to discuss unpaid medical bills. There

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will also be staff present to discuss referrals for alternative care and registration. Jennifer plans on providing services at her district meetings.

**Council** met in **executive session**.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**Tara Irvine**, Tribal Lands Department, discussed a request for a business lease with T-Mobile to utilize the Jette tower site on T7046 for five years with a five-year renewal option. The staff recommended approving the request so long as all leasing requirements are met, including a \$3,000 monthly rental fee, with a 4% annual escalator; a one-time nonrefundable \$50,000 administrative fee; and proof of required insurance.

**MOTION** by James Steele, Jr. to approve a business lease with T-Mobile to utilize the Jette tower site on T7046 for five years with a five-year renewal option, so long as all permitting requirements are met, including a \$3,000 monthly rental fee, with a 4% annual escalator; a one-time nonrefundable \$50,000 administrative fee; and proof of required insurance. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

**Kari Kingery** and **Whisper Camel-Means**, Natural Resources Department, presented a request for a collection permit for Sarah Hollway, Salish Kootenai College Extension Office, to collect soil samples at the Bison Range.

**MOTION** by Martin Charlo to approve a collection permit for Sarah Hollway to collect soil samples at the Bison Range. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

**Kari Kingery** and **Whisper Camel-Means**, Natural Resources Department, presented a request for a collection permit for Marchel Huijser, Montana State University, to collect data on wildlife crossing sites.

**MOTION** by Carole Lankford to approve a collection permit for Marchel Huijser to collect data on wildlife crossing sites. Seconded by Danielle Matt. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

**Kari Kingery** and **Whisper Camel-Means**, Natural Resources Department, requested approval of a letter to the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks providing the annual off-reservation moose harvest data.

**MOTION** by Martin Charlo to approve the letter to the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks providing the annual off-reservation moose harvest data. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

**Whisper Camel-Means**, Natural Resources Department, informed council that the Department of the Interior put out Secretarial Order 3410 to enhance the DOI's work to restore wild and healthy populations of American bison and the prairie grassland ecosystem and nominations for tribal people to serve as technical advisors on the DOI working group. Shannon Clairmont was nominated as a wildlife advisor and he accepted the nomination. Whisper would like to sit as a leadership person to provide recommendations in an advisory capacity for bison.

**MOTION** by Carole Lankford to nominate Whisper Camel-Means to sit as a leadership person to provide recommendations in an advisory capacity for bison. Seconded by Jennifer Finley. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

**Carole Lankford** asked about the council setting the guidelines for LIHEAP. **Patricia Hibbeler**, Director of Tribal Member Services, advised the Tribes can set the percentage of the federal poverty lines between 100% – 150%. CSKT is at 150% so we cannot take it any higher unless we get the law changed. The guidelines came to the council and the Tribal Chairman signed off on them. There were no changes because we were already at the limit. It is all federal funding. Rosie Hewankorn talked to Carole about the elder application which prevents persons with income from receiving any type of assistance. Patti responded the Tribal Council set the federal poverty guidelines and the council decided all elders over the age of 70 would get access to services without qualifying by income and persons under the age of 70 are required to qualify by income. Carole asked Patricia to send a letter to Jo Morigeau regarding her concerns about LIHEAP. **Tom McDonald** asked Patricia to follow up on the Elder per capita. Patti thought the elders application was available online, but she will check. Staff goes to the elderly homes and help them complete the application. **Len TwoTeeth** asked if there is staff on hand to check on the elders during the winter storms. Patricia did not know if the staff was being proactive and reaching out to the elders, but they do check on them. **James Steele, Jr.** saw a Facebook post about the Warming Centers, and he appreciates the rules being changed so nontribal members can go to the centers. Patti responded it has always been policy to allow nontribal members stay in the center, but it does have tribal member preference. The capacity at the Warming Center is 12, and it was at capacity during this last cold spell. Meals were provided. **Tom McDonald** added to the Health Committee agenda topics Medicare B, fentanyl epidemic, and how we are supporting Suboxone for folks in recovery. The Health Committee meeting was scheduled for February 5, 2024. **Bing Matt** had an elder in Arlee tell him that his furnace broke down and he was using heaters, and he needs to have his furnace checked out. **Len TwoTeeth** mentioned a tribal member had heart surgery and needs critical care, and she needs her road plowed so she can go to her medical appointments. **Patricia Hibbeler** will follow up on the concerns discussed. **Jennifer Finley** emailed Patricia about an individual in need of a

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case manager through T-HIP. **Patricia Hibler** advised the individual has been on the program's radar for 2 years and she has a case manager.

\*\*\*\*\* **Break** \*\*\*\*\*

**Dan Decker**, Legal Department; **Maggie Goode**, **Tish Kallowat** and **Mary Charlo-Crumley**, Tribal Probation Office; requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss a personnel matter.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**MOTION** by Carole Lankford to appoint Tish Kallowat as the Acting Program Director for the Tribal Probation Office while the position description is being reviewed and modified. Seconded by Len TwoTeeth. Carried, 8 for; 1 abstention (Martin Charlo – due to family relation).

**Dan Decker**, **John Harrison**, and **Chelsea Colwyn**, Legal Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters.

**Council** met in **executive session**.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**MOTION** by Martin Charlo to grant tribal employees a change of duty, with supervisor approval, for up to six hours to attend the services for Joe McDonald tomorrow. Seconded by Carole Lankford. Carried, 8 for; 1 abstention (Tom McDonald – due to family relation).

It was the **consensus** of council to have the flags fly at half-staff in honor of Joe McDonald.

\*\*\*\*\* **Break** \*\*\*\*\*

**John Harrison**, **Chelse Colwyn**, Legal Department; **Brian Lipscomb**, Energy Keepers, Inc.; **Rich Janssen**, **Les Evarts** and **Whisper Camel-Means**, Natural Resources Department; **William Barquin**, **Jennifer Porter**, **Gary Aitken, Jr.**, and **Clara Dunnington**, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho Leadership; **Diosa Bahe**, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho Legal Department; and **Shawn Young**, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho Fish & Wildlife Department; met with council in **executive session** to provide an update.

**John Harrison**, Legal Department; **Brian Lipscomb**, Energy Keepers, Inc.; and **Les Evarts**, Natural Resources Department; met with council in **executive session**.

**Jennifer Finley** left the meeting for the remainder of the day to go to a medical appointment.

**Council** met in **executive session**.

\*\*\*\*\* **Break** \*\*\*\*\*

**Len TwoTeeth** left the meeting for the remainder of the day.

**Council** met in **executive session** to conduct interviews for the S&K Electronics Board of Directors vacancy. **Melanie Piedalue**, Personnel Department, was present for interviews.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**MOTION** by James Steele, Jr. to accept the results of the ballot and appoint Collette Brown-Rodriquez to the S&K Electronics Board of Directors for a three-year term. Seconded by Danielle Matt. Carried, unanimous (7 present).

**MOTION** by Martin Charlo to appoint Dana Comes At Night to the Two Eagle River School Board for a four-year term. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, unanimous (7 present).

\*\*\*\*\* **Break** \*\*\*\*\*

**Danielle Matt** left the meeting for the remainder of the day.

**Chairman Dolson** joined the meeting.

**Melissa Schlichting** and **Lynsey Gaudioso**, Legal Department; **Craige Couture**, Law & Order; **Jordan Thompson**, Tribal Executive Office; and **Maylinn Smith**, Tribal Prosecutors Office; requested to meet with council in **executive session** to provide an update.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Council **adjourned** at 3:54 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

**CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES**

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Martin A. Charlo  
Tribal Council Secretary