



Bois Forte

TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

Invocation by Gene Goodsky.

Minutes of a special meeting of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council held February 3, 2021 at Nett Lake, Minnesota.

Meeting called to order at 9:37 a.m.

Members Present: Cathy Chavers; David C. Morrison, Sr.; Travis Morrison;
Shane Drift; Peter Boney

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Robbie Gogleye; Gene Goodsky; Vicki Villebrun; Jennie Rowland; Danny Lambert; Natalie Goodsky; Toni Wakemup; Theresa Morrison; Lela Goodsky; Jaylen Strong

Moved by Peter Boney; seconded by David Morrison Sr.; to approve the agenda. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by David Morrison Sr.; to approve the minutes of a special meeting held January 20, 2021 at Nett Lake, Minnesota. Carried 4-0-0.

During approval of the minutes Shane Drift reads paragraph 1 on page 1 in regard to the report of how the CARES Act funding was spent will be put on the website. Shane asks if the report of how the million dollars that was received from the State of Minnesota was spent can also be included. Chairwoman Chavers said yes, a report of all the money was spent that was received will be put on the website. Chairwoman Chavers said she also asked Louise Isham to put that information in the Bois Forte News.

Shane Drift also said in regard to page 2, paragraph 6, during discussion on the tribal code, that the council had previous conversations on the degrees, like if someone got caught with a pound as opposed to ten pounds. Shane asks if Ben Pachito will be adding that in the code at some point. Chairwoman Chavers said she is pretty sure he was told to do that. The council can check with him to see if that got completed.

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New tribal government employees: Jennie Rowland introduces Danny Lambert who is a new Big Woods Transit Bus Driver, Natalie Goodsky who is a new Big Woods Transit Bus Driver, and Toni Wakemup who is the new Big Woods Transit Administrative Assistant. Theresa Morrison introduces Lela Goodsky who is the new Housing Administrative Assistant.

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Travis Morrison; to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- 1) Approved to extend the Hazard Pay policy for Big Woods Transit Bus Drivers until March 31, 2021
- 2) Adopted Resolution No. 74-2021, Amendment to Technical Standards in Tribal-State Gaming Compact for Class III Blackjack to change the style of cards that are used on the Blackjack tables from bordered cards to non-bordered cards
- 3) Approved the request from Teri Morrison to sole source 3 new CHR cars from Iron Trail Motors
- 4) Approved the Nett Lake Head Start Parent Committee to hold a raffle February 1-10, 2021
- 5) Approved the Rural Communities Opioid Response Implementation Subaward Agreement (HRSA)
- 6) Approved the request from Travis Vake to pay light bills for two Band members from the Bois Forte Energy Assistance Program @ \$350.00 each
- 7) Approved the summary of funding for the remaining CARES Act funding

Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Peter Boney; to approve the request from Jennie Rowland to purchase four (4) Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) vans for Big Woods Transit from the vendor Tellin Transportation Group, lowest of three bids at a cost of \$40,405 per vehicle. The Tellin Transportation Group has also met the mandatory "Buy America" criteria. Carried 4-0-0.

Jennie Rowland said under Big Woods Public Transportation there is Big Woods Transit, the volunteer driver program, and the Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT). For the NEMT program, there would be the transport by the regular drivers, or, there could be a family member who needs to transport a family member that might be in a wheelchair, they would be able to check those vehicles out. Jennie said she cleared that with Boyd and the insurance company. Jennie said they work closely with the CHR program. If they can't transport out of town then Big Woods would, and vice-versa.

Jennie is asked what the service area is for the Transit. Jennie said they have transported to Buyck, Orr, Cook, Virginia, Eveleth, Gilbert, Tower, Soudan, and Vermillion.

Shane Drift asks about the safety measures regarding COVID. Jennie said they have a stringent mitigation plan that was implemented back in February of last year. Jennie describes what one driver would do to meet the plan for viruses. The driver would check when they get in the bus to make sure it is sterilized and clean. Then they pick up their passengers, taking note of where their passengers sit. All passengers have to have a mask on. The driver also has to have a mask on. Family groups can sit

together but everyone else has to social distance throughout the bus. And that determines whether Big Woods sends two buses or a larger bus. The people have to call in so Big Woods know how many people are going to be on that route. That group of people will get off the bus and the driver will go with Clorex wipes and will wipe all the areas that have been touched where people have sat. Then the driver will take the passengers home. And when he gets back to the garage, then he wipes down all those touched areas again. Then he vacuums or sweeps, and then the floors are coated with a pump of bleach, water, and Dawn dish soap because the outer coating of the virus is fat soluble and Dawn dish soap cuts grease. And when that is done there is a fogger gun where they can manually fog through each seat. Or there is a bigger fogger where they set it down and hit it so it vaporizes the entire inside of the bus. It automatically shuts off after 45 minutes. And then the bus is put away. Jennie said there hasn't been any cases resulting from the transit. Big Woods staff are very respectful and concerned of the virus and know transportation is a critical service. They did not want that branding or that reputation that the transit brought the COVID to the community and to the elders.

Jaylen Strong said the Indigenous Peoples Task Force has a program called "Keep the Fire Alive". It is a suicide prevention, suicide awareness, substance awareness program through the medium of youth acting, poetry, different arts. Things to get more in touch with culture. The group are metro area youth that are native and non-native. The group in the Keep the Fire Alive goes on trips each year. Last year they had a camp at the YMCA in Wisconsin. Jaylen went to that one and did language activities. The group wants to come up here this year for the camp from March 18-21. There would be 10-12 youth and about 5 chaperones. They would stay in the gym in Vermilion. They will go into the wilderness since there isn't any in the cities. The only two people they would have contact with at Bois Forte will be Jaylen and David "Squidg" Morrison. The group would test for COVID, the rapid test, and quarantine for 4 or 5 days before coming up. Jaylen said he and Squidg will get their 2nd vaccine before the camp. Some of the group are Band members but have never come to the reservation. Jaylen said he will come back with a better plan for the next meeting. Chairwoman Chavers said that sounds okay. She asks if there are cots at the Vermilion center. Robbie said he doesn't think so but the maintenance crew can bring over the cots from the government center in Nett Lake. Chairwoman Chavers said she doesn't know how the weather is in March but there is the Johnson Lake property too for some of the outdoor stuff.

Jaylen Strong said at the last RTC meeting he had some examples of statements that Grand Portage and other tribes are sending to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). Grand Portage will be making a statement tomorrow. The MPCA will be changing the levels on how they moderate water pollutants. It will make it easier for them to not take into account how water ways get affected downstream. An example might be they are looking at pollution in Nett River maybe a mile down. But because they are only looking at that area they don't have to look at the rest of Nett Lake at all. But the pollution that they are checking might be okay but once it gets down river it can mess up the rice crop. Jaylen said he wanted to know if the council was okay with Grand Portage making the statement on behalf of Bois Forte as well.

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Chairwoman Chavers said April McCormick, Secretary-Treasurer from Grand Portage did a presentation to the TEC last Friday because the MPCA is going to change the water quality standards from number 2 to 3 and 4. Chairwoman Chavers is not sure who was all involved but Grand Portage and Fond du Lac were too and did a lot of research and data that April presented about the changing of the water quality standards. Part of it was the MPCA did not consult with the tribes, and if they did they didn't listen to the tribes. The tribes voiced concerns but fell on deaf ears. The MCT did support the statement. April was delegated to do the testimony tomorrow. Chairwoman Chavers asks the council if they want to support that as a Band. Jaylen said Margaret Wallington from Grand Portage sent the statement and said April was going to make her statement tomorrow, and the tribes could sign on.

Moved by Peter Boney; seconded by Shane Drift; to adjourn the meeting at 10:17 a.m. Carried 4-0-0.