

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council held January 18, 2012 at the Lake Vermilion Sector of the Bois Forte Reservation, Minnesota.

Meeting called to order at 9:11 a.m.

Members Present: Kevin W. Leecy; David C. Morrison, Sr.; Cathy Chavers;  
Brandon Benner; Ray Toutloff

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Barb Brodeen; Mark Anderson; Vanessa Little; Doris Isham; Billie Mason; Dave Anderson; Marcella Connor; Karlene Chosa; Justin Boness; Brad Anderson; Tracey Dagen; Pam Parson; Cheryl Strong; Mary Strong; Kevin Koski; Nikki Pieratos; Pam Hughes; Harvey Thompson; Axel Holmes Sr.; Carol Burr; Loretta Holmes; Lorraine Villebrun; Andy Datko; Corey Strong; Charmaine Jourdain; Jake Isham; Bruce McCarthy; Jacob Heggen; Kevin Strong; Peggy Connor; Kim Greiner; Andy Datko; Kenda Benner; Alexi Goodsky; Miranda Lilya; Marilyn Geshick; Jerome Whiteman

Moved by Ray Toutloff; seconded by David Morrison, Sr.; to approve the agenda with the 1) deletion of Janice Connor with the contract for Vermilion water and sewer, 2) moving to executive session – Mark Anderson and Andy Datko with the resolution for the rights-of-way for Vermilion streets, 3) move the law enforcement salary request and interest on IRR funds under Kim Greiner, 4) move the resolution opposing FHWA Maps 21 Legislation under Kim Greiner and Andy Datko, and 5) delete the NIGA membership dues. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Cathy Chavers; seconded by Ray Toutloff; to approve the minutes of a special meeting held December 7, 2011 at the Lake Vermilion Sector of the Bois Forte Reservation, Minnesota. Carried 4-0-0.

Elders Committee: Jerome Whiteman said there was a fire last month and the response, the elders want to know what really happened, and also what the council will be doing in case something like this happens again.

Carol Burr said a 911 call was made. Sergeant Chosa was at the fire. Carol is not sure what happened with the fire department. The Orr Fire Department was called and not the Nett Lake Fire Department. Carol took a member of the fire department with her when she went to the house to check it out but the occupant would not let the fire department member in the house. Jerome Whiteman said the next issue the elders have is they got a copy of the elder committee bylaws and now they would like Mark Anderson to go over them with the elders.

Jerome is to contact Wick-o or Vanessa to set up a meeting.

Phyllis Boshey said Norman Strong died. She said there was an RTC meeting held the same day as his funeral. She said Norman was a war hero. She said her and her family and some of the elders didn't think the RTC meeting should have been held.

Chairman Leecy said there was no disrespect meant. The previous RTC meeting was not held and there were pressing issues. David Morrison Sr. said every time someone passes away he asks our spiritual advisor, Gene Goodsky. Gene advised at the time to go ahead and have the meeting.

Jerome Whiteman said in the new year, the elders will be starting their meetings with a prayer and smudging.

New staff: Andy Datko introduces Kevin Koski who is the new Emergency Preparedness Director. Kevin said he will be working on the items the elders mentioned in regard to fires and communication.

Moved by Cathy Chavers; seconded by Ray Toutloff; to adopt resolution #40-2012, grant application to the Office of Rural Health and Primary Care of the Minnesota Department of Health for equipment (non-mydratric retinal camera and a podiatry table to enhance treatment of diabetic patients) for the clinic. Carried 4-0-0.

Greenwood Township is requesting to access the Vermilion sector of the reservation for the purpose of GPS mapping of all addresses to be used for emergency services.

Moved by Ray Toutloff; seconded by David Morrison, Sr.; to approve the Greenwood Township request to access the reservation for the purpose of GPS mapping on the condition that the Township agrees to provide all data to the Bois Forte Band. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by David Morrison, Sr.; seconded by Ray Toutloff; to approve the request from Peggy Connor to pursue a \$7,000 grant from the Minnesota Legacy Fund to create a more detailed book of the Bois Forte Veterans. Carried 4-0-0. Peggy would interview the veterans to get photos and their military service recollections. She would ask family members of deceased veterans to sign a form to be able to access their service records for service history and earned awards and medals. The book would add to the Bois Forte Veteran Memorial and would be displayed at the government center and the heritage center.

Moved by Cathy Chavers; seconded by Brandon Benner; to approve the request to extend the fitness center use for employees another year – January 1 through December 31, 2012. The fitness center usage program is aimed at reducing stress among employees and employee wellness. The fee will be waived for tribal government employees and Nett Lake School employees. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Ray Toutloff; seconded by Cathy Chavers; to appoint Karlene Chosa, Jane Villebrun, Kevin Strong, Sidney Adams, Tracey Dagen, Alan Sam, Carol Burr, and Josh Villebrun to the Bois Forte Reservation Road Naming Committee. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Cathy Chavers; seconded by David Morrison, Sr.; to adopt resolution #41-2012, lease cancellation – Jesse Baker. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Cathy Chavers; seconded by David Morrison, Sr.; to adopt resolution #42-2012, recreational lease – Elias and Colleen Shiheiber. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Cathy Chavers; seconded by Ray Toutloff; to adopt resolution #43-2012, Bois Forte Land Ordinance, effective April 1, 2012. Carried 4-0-0.

The Indian Land Tenure Foundation (ILTF) is asking permission to conduct their Minnesota Indian Estate Planning Project at Bois Forte. This is a project that will provide free estate planning and will writing services to American Indians at Bois Forte, Fond du Lac, Leech Lake and Mille Lacs. Participation by Band members is voluntary and all information will be kept confidential. There is no cost to individuals for the service. The ILTF has hired the Swanson, Drobnick & Tousey law firm to provide the service. The ILTF is asking to proceed with the project and is requesting in-kind support. The in-kind support is the use of a conference room at the government center, Vermilion center and the urban office; articles in the Bois Forte News and the website; posting of flyers at Nett Lake and Vermilion; designation of a point person to help coordinate the project; a secure fire proof file cabinet for storage of wills; and they also would like to make presentations at the quarterly town meetings, elders committee meetings, or other forums.

Moved by Cathy Chavers; seconded by Brandon Benner; to approve the Indian Land Tenure Foundation to proceed with the Minnesota Indian Estate Planning Project at Bois Forte and to provide the in-kind services. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Cathy Chavers; seconded by Ray Toutloff; to approve the services agreement with the University of Minnesota to process aquatic insect samples from the lake. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Cathy Chavers; seconded by Brandon Benner; to adopt resolution #44-2012, submission of grant application to the Administration for Children and Families' ANA-Social and Economic Development Strategies for funding to develop financial education and business development programs for the credit union. This would hire a development services coordinator. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Cathy Chavers; seconded by Ray Toutloff; to approve the agreement with Peggy Hiestand Harri to provide nutritionist services to the Bois Forte Early Childhood Programs, Head Start and Child Care. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Ray Toutloff; seconded by David Morrison, Sr.; submission of grant application to the Department of Health & Human Services Office of Head Start for supplemental funding for additional training and technical assistance activities. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Cathy Chavers; seconded by David Morrison, Sr.; to approve the Region III Adult Mental Health Initiative By-Laws for the Minnesota Counties and Lake Superior Chippewa

Bands of Bois Forte, Carlton, Cook, Fond du Lac, Grand Portage, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake and St. Louis. Carries 4-0-0.

Chairman Leecy leaves the meeting.  
Vice-Chair Chavers chairs the meeting.

Moved by David Morrison, Sr.; seconded by Brandon Benner; to approve using the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Court of Election Appeals as the appellate forum for the 2012 tribal elections. Carried 3-0-0.

Moved by David Morrison, Sr.; seconded by Ray Toutloff; to appoint Tadd Johnson as the Election Court of Appeals Judge for the 2012 tribal elections with Chris Anderson as the alternate. Carried 3-0-0.

Chairman Leecy returns to the meeting.

Moved by Ray Toutloff; seconded by Cathy Chavers; to approve a letter under Chairman Leecy's signature requesting an accounting, a full detailed report, from the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Justice Services of all funds expended from the retained funds for the BIA officers' salaries for FY 2009, 2010 & 2011. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Cathy Chavers; seconded by Ray Toutloff; to approve establishing a separate account for the interest income on the IRR Funds. The funds would still be used for the Roads Department. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Cathy Chavers; seconded by David Morrison, Sr.; to adopt resolution #45-2012, opposing the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act, Map – 21 funding formula legislation. The legislation sets forth a formula for distribution of roads funds to Indian Tribes that would be authorized by a newly named "Tribal Transportation Program." The formula is based mainly on population and will have a devastating impact on Rural Land Based Tribes and will result in unfair distribution of road construction funding to those tribes. Indian Tribes were not consulted during the development of the proposed legislation and had no input to the final language or final funding amounts required to adequately meet the transportation needs of most Indian Tribes. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Cathy Chavers; seconded by Ray Toutloff; to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 a.m. Carried 4-0-0.