

Minutes of a special meeting of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council held March 4, 2015 at Nett Lake, Minnesota.

Meeting called to order at 9:12 a.m.

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Corey Strong; Vicki Villebrun; Kay Davis; Ira Brown; Kim Greiner; Millie Holmes; Misty Wilkie-Condif; Joel Astleford; Lowanna Greensky; Bill Latady; Robert Mathis; Karen Drift; Luann Drift; Honore Lehtinen; Will King; Myra Thompson; Pam Hughes; Louise Isham; Joyce Delorme; Virgil Sohm; Andy Datko; Mary Strong; Tracey Dagen; Donald Chosa Jr.; Tara Geshick; Dani Pieratos; Gordon Adams Jr.; Dawn Benner; Edith Villebrun; Beverly Steel; Jeneal Goggeleye; Angie King; Miranda Lilya; Marybelle Isham; Billie Mason; Sidra Starkovich; Norm Adams

Moved by Ray Toutloff; seconded by David Morrison Sr.; to approve the agenda with the addition of Bill Latady with a Programmatic Agreement with MnDOT regarding Trunk Highway 210 and Cultural Resource Assessment; and moving Andy Datko and Joel Astleford's agenda item, Demolition and Removal of Burned Out Homes to executive session because of personal discussion. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Brandon Benner; seconded by Karlene Chosa; to approve the minutes of a special meeting held February 4, 2015 at the Lake Vermilion Sector of the Bois Forte Reservation, Minnesota. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Ray Toutloff; seconded by David Morrison Sr.; to approve the minutes of a special meeting held February 13, 2015 at Fortune Bay, Minnesota. Carried 4-0-0.

Elder Activities Committee: Donald Chosa Jr. said the Indigenous Elder Abuse Awareness Conference will be held April 30-May 1 at Mystic Lake. The elders want to thank the tribal council for providing the

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funding to attend, and also thank Mavis Drift and Shirley Benner for planning and setting up the travel arrangements for the elders to attend it.

Chairman Leecy gives an update on resolution #60-2015 the tribal council recently passed. He said it has to do with what was talked about for a number of years here and community meetings. He is proud to announce the tribal council approved a resolution which would recognize Chippewa blood from First Nations to those that are already enrolled members of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. This was sent to the Tribal Executive Committee of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and last week the Tribal Executive Committee passed it. The resolution will now move forward to the Secretary of the Interior for approval, and then eventually it will get to the voters of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, all the voters of the six tribes of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. Chairman Leecy said in addition, another tribe had another resolution to include all Anishinaabe Ojibwe Chippewa blood for the members of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. Chairman Leecy thanks the tribal council.

Karlene Chosa thanks Chairman Leecy for following through with the amendment.

Kay Davis asks if that includes all Canadian blood. Chairman Leecy said it includes all Anishinaabe, Ojibwe, Chippewa, First Nations blood of members that are currently enrolled.

Virgil Sohm asks if it will give people dual citizenship. Chairman Leecy said no, it is confined to members of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe to do a blood correction.

New tribal government employees: Andy Datko introduces Will King, the new Maintenance Tech worker.

Chief Robert Mathis introduces Joyce Delorme, the new police officer. Chairman Leecy administers the Oath of Office to Officer Joyce Delorme.

Moved by David Morrison Sr.; seconded by Ray Toutloff; to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:

- 1) Letter of support for the Nett Lake School technology improvement grant request to the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community.
- 2) Re-location of the Bois Forte Reservation Chemical Dependency Program FROM the Vermilion Head Start Building TO the building known as Hide-away-Pines located on St. Louis County Road 77 effective March 2, 2015. The Hide-away-Pines building meets all safety and handicapped accessibility requirements and the move is authorized by the licensing agent, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Human Services Department under MCT Chemical Dependency Treatment Licensing Ordinance 19, Chapter IV, Licensing Requirements.

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- 3) Resolution #59-2015, amendment to the Technical Standards in the Tribal-State Compact for Control of Class III Video Games of Chance by adding a definition of Logic Control Components to enable use of expanding modern technology. And,

- 4) Resolution #60-2015, supporting a resolution by the Tribal Executive Committee pursuant to Article XII to call an election to amend Article II, section I so that it provides: (d) The Minnesota Chippewa Indian blood of persons enrolled on the effective date of this amendment shall be corrected on the membership rolls of the Tribe by including the verified First Nation Anishinaabe blood the person possesses. The tribal council also approves this resolution to be presented to the Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) at the TEC meeting being held February 24, 2015.

Carried 4-0-0.

Misty Wilkie-Condif, PhD, RN, Assistant Professor at Bemidji State University, said her interest is with organ donation and transplantation of the American Indian population. She said her previous work involved doing interviews with enrolled members of two different tribes on their story of what their experience was like on either donating an organ or receiving an organ. She is here today to ask the tribal council for support on another project which is a follow-up to her previous work. Her project now will be interviewing people on their quality of life and health after donating an organ or receiving an organ. The reason she is doing the study is there isn't a lot of literature published on this topic. What is out there is twenty years old and states American Indians are not willing to be organ donors. She said while it is true for people with traditional beliefs she has found that those with traditional beliefs when put in those situations are still willing to be donors for family members. The literature needs to be updated not only for American Indian communities but also health care professionals so they know how to approach American Indian families in a respectful manner that still keeps in mind their cultural beliefs and are sensitive to those cultural beliefs. It also will make aware to the American Indian communities what it is like to be an organ donor or to receive an organ and what life is like afterward. Misty plans on interviewing 15 males and 15 females from multiple tribes which means if Bois Forte does approve, whoever approaches her first will be interviewed, so it could mean 3 from Bois Forte and 20 from another tribe. It would depend on who is interested. Misty will not approach individuals that she knows who has either donated or received an organ, they will need to contact her to express their interest. When asked how she will get the word out she said she will use social media and word of mouth. When asked about data privacy, Misty said the participants will complete a demographic form which includes age, sex, tribe, those types of things. It will not include names. The transcriptionist is from another part of the state and does not know the names or tribes. Once Misty gets the transcripts back she will take out the names so there are no names associated with the interviews once they are complete. When asked about the benefit it would be for Bois Forte Misty said the benefit is more for the individual. It gives them an opportunity to tell their story. It is almost like a healing to be able to share their story. It gives them an opportunity to share their story and possibly help others to make a similar decision or maybe to prevent them from making a decision. Misty said she is not pushing anyone to be a donor, it is

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a venue to share their story. She said for Bois Forte as a tribe she thinks it is beneficial to participate in a study and help contribute to the health and wellness of other American Indians.

Moved by Ray Toutloff; seconded by David Morrison Sr.; to authorize Misty Wilkie-Condifff to interview individuals at Bois Forte. Carried 4-0-0.

Lowana Greensky said Michelle Johnson-Jennings, Co-Director of the Research for Indigenous Community Health (RICH) Center was not able to be here today to explain the project they are doing, The University of Minnesota – Duluth, Center for Indigenous Community Health has secured funding for a project that would use intertribal talking circles for leadership development and prevention of substance abuse in grades 5-8. This project will be done at Bois Forte, and the Choctaw and Lumbee Nations in Oklahoma. Lowana and Michelle have explained the project to the Nett Lake School and ISD #2142 and they gave their support to move forward. Michelle wanted to explain the project to the tribal council since the students at Nett Lake School and North Woods will be Bois Forte Band members. It is a five-year grant project which one year is a planning stage, three years will be working with the students, and one year will be training staff and community members in the intertribal talking circle methods. Michelle will be giving a yearly report on the project. Michelle may need a letter of support and Lowana will ask her. Chairman Leecy thanks Lowana for the presentation and wishes them well with their initiative.

Moved by Ray Toutloff; seconded by Brandon Benner; to approve a \$15,000 donation to Greenwood Township, a \$7,500 donation to Tower, and a \$7,500 donation to Breitung, the three fire departments that provide fire protection services to the Vermilion Sector of the Bois Forte Reservation. Carried 4-0-0.

Chairman Leecy informs the audience that yesterday the Tribal Council took action to make Norm Adams the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at Fortune Bay.

Moved by Ray Toutloff; seconded by David Morrison Sr.; to approve the revised Burial Fund Policies as presented by Angie King with the deletion of the sentence “This fund is not retroactive prior to December 27, 2005.” On page 4. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Brandon Benner; seconded by Ray Toutloff; to appoint Muriel Deegan and Char Lewis to the Culture Committee.

Pam Hughes asked about sending out a posting for people to sign up. Tracey Dagen said they have been at every meeting. Tracey said they need to be appointed so they can work on the powwow.

Ray Toutloff withdraws his motion.

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Dawn Benner said TERO has to post for 30 days and then bring the names to the council.

Ray Toutloff said to let them work on the powwow. Tracey Dagen said the meeting are at 4:00 and Muriel has trouble getting off work because she isn't on the committee.

Corey Strong said there will be time before the powwow to post for members. Vicki Villebrun said the Culture Committee has bylaws.

Brandon Benner rescinds his motion.

Moved by Ray Toutloff; seconded by Karlene Chosa; to table the appointments until the Culture Committee Bylaws are reviewed. Muriel Deegan is authorized to take off a ½ hour earlier from work for the meetings. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Karlene Chosa; seconded by David Morrison Sr.; to approve the request from Pam Hughes to sole-source with Edens Group for 30-hours required training for the chemical dependency staff. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Ray Toutloff; seconded by Karlene Chosa; to approve the request from Honore Lehtinen for two individuals, Jennifer Elmberg and Corie McKibben, to do their social work internship at the Bois Forte Mental Health Services. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Ray Toutloff; seconded by Brandon Benner; to close 14 banks accounts of the 15 on the list Kim Greiner presented. She is to keep the Nelson Land Claim open. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Ray Toutloff; seconded by Brandon Benner; to approve a budget amendment to transfer \$102,467.56 from the FY 2014 810 budget to the credit union for is second year's operations instead of the \$162,722 that it was thought they would need. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Brandon Benner; seconded by Karlene Chosa; to approve the request from Kim Greiner to sole-source the purchase of a Ricoh copier from Metro Sales for the accounting department. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Karlene Chosa; seconded by Ray Toutloff; to authorize participation in the Bois Forte Commercial Businesses 401(k) Retirement Plan for the Northern Eagle Federal Credit Union employees. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Ray Toutloff; seconded by Brandon Benner; to approve the Programmatic Agreement between Bois Forte and MnDOT regarding Trunk Highway 210 and Cultural Resource Assessment. Carried 4-0-0.

Corey Strong informs the Tribal Council that it is in the Culture Committee Bylaws to post for new members.

Moved by Brandon Benner; seconded by Ray Toutloff; to adjourn the meeting at 10:33 a.m. Carried 4-0-0.