

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council held January 7, 2015 at Nett Lake, Minnesota.

Meeting called to order at 10:27 a.m.

Members Present: Kevin W. Leecy; David C. Morrison Sr.; Brandon Benner; Karlene Chosa; Ray Toutloff (via speakerphone)

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Corey Strong; Gene Goodsky; Vicki Villebrun; Louise Isham; Andy Datko; Kim Greiner; Robert Mathis; Joel Astleford; Karen Drift; Billie Mason; Kathie Holman; Beverly Steel; Dawn Benner; Miranda Lilya; Tara Geshick; Dani Pieratos

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

Moved by Ray Toutloff; seconded David Morrison Sr.; to approve the minutes of a special meeting held November 19, 2014 at the Lake Vermilion Sector of the Bois Forte Reservation, Minnesota. Carried 4-0-0.

Elders Committee: No elder committee members are present. Donald Chosa Jr. is at an ANA conference in Oklahoma and Peggy Connor is not present.

There are no new tribal government employees to introduce.

Moved by Brandon Benner; seconded by Ray Toutloff; to approve the consent agenda items as follows:

Sole-source with the accounting firm Tahtinen & Associates to reconcile general ledgers for the Northern Eagle Federal Credit Union,

Eviction Proceedings-Opportunity to Avoid Eviction,

Statement of Work #2 with McGladrey for Billing and Contract Health Medicare Like Rates for Health,

Resolution #41-2015, attesting Karen Drift's competence in the Anishinaabe Language (Karen is seeking a license from the Minnesota Board of Teaching to teach the Anishinaabe language to students),

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Resolution 42-2015, attesting Angie Harper's competence in the Anishinaabe History, Culture, and Language (Angie is seeking a license from the Minnesota Board of Teaching to teach American Indian History and Culture),

Budget modifications for the TERO, Transit, and Basketball programs, and

Statement of Work #1 with McGladrey for Medicare Like Rate Overpayments at Health.

Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Karlene Chosa; seconded by Brandon Benner; to approve the agreement with Dane Hautala to prepare and submit the evaluation plan and year-end evaluation reports for the Bois Forte Prevention Program and the International Falls Prevention Program. Carried 4-0-0.

Andy Datko gives an update on the Nett Lake Dam Project. The project will be the replacement of the dam gate, construction of the fish passage, and restoration of the meanders. The project went out on bid last fall. All the bids came in over budget because of the fish passage structure due to increased costs of concrete and steel. Value engineering was done with the low bidder, Gladen Construction to change some of the designs. The steel structure will be replaced with concrete box culverts with control gates built into them. The project will then be within budget. The design changes need to be reviewed by the Army Corps of Engineers. Andy will bring this back to the next meeting for formal awarding of the contract. The work can be done during the winter. TERO will also be included in the price.

Moved by Karlene Chosa; seconded by Ray Toutloff; to approve the agreement with Teletrac for GPS services for the Natural Resources Department vehicles. Carried 4-0-0.

Joel Astleford said the lift station pumps on the reservation are all by four different manufacturers: KSB-Quality Flow, Meyers-Tristate Pump, Gorman Rupp-General Repair, and FLYGT-Electric Pump. The threshold for purchases has now been lowered to \$3,000. Anything over \$3,000 requires three quotes. Because the cost of new or used pumps is more than \$3,000.00, whenever a lift station pump breaks down, Joel is requesting to sole-source the purchase of new or used pumps with the manufacturer of that pump.

Moved by Brandon Benner; seconded by David Morrison Sr.; to approve the request to sole-source the purchase of lift station pumps when needed. Carried 4-0-0.

Karlene Chosa would like an update on the evictions.

Chairman Leecy said the individuals' names and amounts can't be released.

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Karlene Chosa wanted to talk to Corey Strong in regard to who wrote the Eviction Proceedings-Opportunity to Avoid Eviction. Karlene said at the last meeting she wanted a resolution in regard to the cold weather rule, and then the next week this came out.

Chairman Leecy said it is the same procedure that Karlene used to get the resolution, the council used the same person to get the second resolution, through legal, Mark Anderson.

Dani Pieratos said they are not taking any action right now for those that are having a hard time.

Karlene Chosa would like, for the record, that when she got the phone call for the Proceedings-Opportunity to Avoid Eviction, that she voted against it because she wanted the cold weather policy from October 1 to May 1, that the Proceedings-Opportunity to Avoid Eviction only applies to the six people and not to further evictions. Each tenant had their own reasons for being behind in their payment and arrears. It took years for the tenants to accumulate and now the RTC and housing is collecting every penny owed. Karlene said she thinks the cold weather policy would have allowed a lot more solutions, it would have allowed the problems that built up in housing in collecting arrears as a remedy.

Dawn Benner said the cold weather policy is only for utilities. She said she has never heard anything in regard to housing. Dawn said she herself pays her rent on time, she pays every bill on time. She asks how that will affect those that pay their bills on time. She said if those people are not going to be held accountable, then she is not going to pay either.

Chairman Leecy said the council has heard comments from both sides. He said he is glad this is behind now and everyone can move forward.

Karlene Chosa said she just brought it up because it is her point of view and why she wanted it stated in the minutes.

Corey Strong said since the Proceedings-Opportunity to Avoid Eviction was formally approved, it won't apply to just the six, it will apply to anyone in the future also.

Moved by Karlene Chosa; seconded by Ray Toutloff; to adjourn the meeting at 10:56 a.m. Carried 4-0-0.