

Minutes of a special meeting of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council held on September 6 at the Lake Vermilion Sector of the Bois Forte Reservation, Minnesota.

Meeting called to order at 9:10 a.m.

Members Present: Kim Greiner; Gene Goodsky; Vicki Villebrun; Sidra Starkovich; Bill Tibbetts; Joel Astleford; Gary Donald; Miranda Lilya; Barb Brodeen; Jaime Burdick; Tim O’Leary; Eddie Chavers; Evertt Huismann; Melissa Wright; Donna Hoffer; George Strong; Lucille Stepec; Pam Hughes; Corinna Lyons; Tara Geshick; Billie Mason; Wendy Thompson; Dawn Benner; Linda Tibbetts-Barto; Beverly Steel; Martha Anderson; Jason Picard; Josh Sherman

Invocation by Gene Goodsky.

Moved by Ray Toutloff; seconded by Travis Morrison; to approve the agenda with the addition of a contract to provide barge services to Rainy Lake for their lake restoration project, and the addition of discussion/update on the budget. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Brandon Benner; seconded by Travis Morrison; to approve the minutes of a special meeting held August 16, 2017 at Nett Lake, Minnesota. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Ray Toutloff; seconded by Brandon Benner; to approve the minutes of a special meeting held August 28, 2017 at Nett Lake, Minnesota. Carried 4-0-0.

New tribal government employees: Jaime Burdick introduces Jason Picard who is the new Tribal Police Officer. Donna Hoffer introduces Corinna Lyons who is the new Case Manager for New Moon.

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Ray Toutloff; to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- 1) Approved awarding contract to Parsons Town and Country for backup generator for Black Lock Trail telecom tower (council poll vote was 4-0-0)
- 2) Approved the service line agreement with CenturyLink for the purpose of authorizing the extension of fiber-optic line from east reservation boundary on Hwy 23 to the telecommunication hut located between the Bois Forte Human Services and the “C” Store buildings in Nett Lake (council poll vote was 4-0-0)
- 3) Approve mandatory reporting buildout with EPIC for Health which will automatically generate reports needed to stay in federal compliance (council poll vote was 4-0-0).

Carried. 4-0-0.

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On February 1, 2017 the Tribal Council approved by unanimous vote the transfer of a 2016 Chevrolet Suburban to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), but the BIA needs the action memorialized in the form of a resolution.

Moved by Ray Toutloff; seconded by David Morrison Sr.; to adopt resolution #25-2018, affirming the transfer of title to a vehicle, 2016 Chevrolet Suburban, to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Ray Toutloff; seconded by David Morrison Sr.; to adopt resolution #26-2018, renewal of the Memorandum of Agreement with the Bureau of Indian Affairs concerning criminal law enforcement authority, crime prevention, and public safety on the Bois Forte Reservation. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Brandon Benner; seconded by Ray Toutloff; to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for Minnesota Coordinated Entry System between Bois Forte Local Continuum of Care (CoC) Provider and Heading Home St. Louis County. This coordinates intake for the homeless and refers them to the most appropriate service strategy or housing intervention. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Ray Toutloff; seconded by Brandon Benner; to approve the increase of the admission fees for the Bois Forte Heritage Museum with the addition of the Veteran discount admission fee of \$6.00, effective October 1, 2017. Carried 4-0-0.

Sidra Starkovich said the actual demo for three homes at Vermilion was more than \$3.00 a square foot so the grant contract in the amount of \$8,085.00 with the IRRRB needs a match of \$11,072. The match is on the upcoming budget list for 2018.

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Ray Toutloff; to approve the grant contract with the IRRRB for the Demo2 project. Carried 4-0-0.

Ray Toutloff asks Tara Geshick if funds for demo projects can come out of the environmental program. Tara said she will get the figures from Sidra and see if they can come from the GAP program. Sidra said the IRRRB funds only cover Vermilion and Indian Point because of their service area. Ray feels that should be challenged because one time money was received from IRRRB for the old clinic building in Nett Lake.

Moved by Brandon Benner; seconded by Travis Morrison; to approve the sole-source of the contractor agreement with Keith Secola to provide Talent/Producer services for KBFT's "Native Americana Series in the amount of \$5,000. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Ray Toutloff; seconded by Travis Morrison; to table the request from Donna Hoffer to appoint individuals to the advisory committee for the Bemidji State University Department of Nursing Niganawenimaanaanig (We take care of them) program. Donna asked Doris Isham who is willing to

serve. The council asked about an alternate. Donna will ask another individual to see if they would be willing to serve on it as an alternate. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Ray Toutloff; seconded by David Morrison Sr.; to approve the request from Beverly Steel for her and a group of people to hold a one-time Bingo fundraiser to help Ray Villebrun to purchase a motorized scooter and help with other medical costs. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by David Morrison Sr.; to approve the Rainy Lake Restoration Contract to receive \$127,520.00 and the agreement with the National Park Service Voyageurs National Park for Bois Forte to provide mechanical aquatic vegetation cutter and harvester barges with operators on Rainy Lake in Voyageurs National Park. This will be a two year project. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Brandon Benner; seconded by Ray Toutloff; to approve the 2017-2018 commercial insurance package policy with Travelers Insurance Company in the amount of \$166,317.00. Carried 4-0-0.

Discussion and update on the budget.

Brandon Benner said the decision process has not been started yet. A month ago the government almost went to a 32 hour work week. The budget has to be approved by October 1. There is no communication to the staff or the Band members. The Duluth Urban Office is not a political move. People off the reservation ask when is anything going to help them. The council saved up for three years, \$75,000 (\$25,000 a year) for the Duluth urban office which effects 300 people, and \$71,000 was spent on Helen Wilkie for a half year and she is just one person and not a Band member. At the Monday morning meeting the council said they were going to do open budget meetings. Other governments you can see things like votes and salaries.

Kim Greiner said she is working on the budget packets. She met with departments and completed 232 budgets. She needs 60+ budgets to be done by Friday. Kim has four budget meetings scheduled and if the council wants open meetings she will have information for people to see. Kim said there are two big items to watch for. One is Fortune Bay needs to make capital improvements. The other is no one knows what will happen with the federal budgets.

Chairwoman Chavers said the council did meet on Monday. Kim is trying to get a final figure so the council will know what to cut. Fortune Bay will be giving the council money this year but it will half of what they gave last year. The salary cuts need to come from the top down. The council talked about the council cutting their salary and possible cuts to the senior management but no one else. Kim needs to get the dollar amount as soon as possible.

Gary Donald asks the council what the difference is in the guidelines between the Water and San program and the Elder Needs program. He said he qualified for one but not the other. He asks how

many people are in default with their water and san. Gary said he pays attention to what people say on Facebook. He asks if anything is being done to the past Chairman for running the Band into the hole.

Chairwoman Chavers said the guidelines should all be the same. There are people in default and owe the Band over a million for things like housing, water and san, and loan programs. For water and san their water gets cut off. Corey Strong is looking at ways to collect from people who left the reservation. She said for the previous Chair, nothing is being done as far as she knows.

Gary Donald said there was construction by his house and his yard was bulldozed. He had nice trees like chokecherry trees. Now his garage fills with water every spring and he can't use his garage. He said he was told it would get fixed but it never did.

Chairwoman Chavers said someone will get on it.

Tim O'Leary said he has a concern about the wild rice season. There is a bumper crop this year. That will bring in people who will thrash the rice. He wants someone to check the boats for heads and stalks as people come in off the lake. He said people need to tell someone if they see people thrashing the rice.

Tara Geshick said there was a conservation committee meeting last night but no quorum. Seven people did volunteer and on Thursday will go check the rice.

Dawn Benner asks about recovering the loss that the previous Chairman put the Band in. She said when Gary Donald was Chair he left the Band with a savings.

Gary Donald said when he was Chair, he would get together with the CFO and ask to be shown where the Band was financially and then he would meet with the Secretary-Treasurer who has the final say on the financials. He said put the responsibility where it needs to go. He said it is not an easy job for elected leaders. They need good people working for them. The first thing the previous Chair did was dissolve the Fortune Bay Board of Directors. That board watched the financial of Fortune Bay. They need another board and everyone on that board should be a Band member. Gary said he has a lot of suggestions if the council wants to listen. If the council has good employees tell them and give them letters for their files which they can use for references if needed. Gary said when he worked for the Bureau he got a letter and a check for \$1,000.

Moved by Brandon Benner; seconded by Travis Morrison; to adjourn the meeting at 10:48 a.m. Carried 4-0-0.