



Bois Forte

TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council held January 2, 2019 at the Lake Vermilion Sector of the Bois Forte Reservation, Minnesota.

Meeting called to order at 9:27 a.m.

Members Present: Cathy Chavers; Travis Morrison; Shane Drift; Peter Boney

Members Absent: David C. Morrison, Sr. (still on his way)

Others Present: Corey Strong; Vicki Villebrun; Randy Long; Louise Isham; Barb Brodeen; Bill Latady; Evertt Huisman; Jennie Rowland; Wendy Thompson; Joel Astleford; Alanna Drift; Tara Geshick; Sidra Starkovich; Miranda Lilya; Teri Morrison; Theresa Morrison; Donna Hoffer; Whitney Humphrey

A moment of silence is observed in place of invocation.

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve the agenda with the following changes:

- 1) Remove until the next meeting Alex Mehne with the 2019-2020 Harvest Plan,
- 2) Remove Rick Anderson and Holly Croteau with the gambling permit-Laurentian Chamber of Commerce,
- 3) Remove Donna Hoffer with the sole source request for the contract with Rebecca Schueller Training & Consulting LLC to provide the Supervision & Appraisal Training,
- 4) Add Chairwoman Chavers with an update the government shutdown,
- 5) Add Chairwoman Chavers with an update on the annual report to the Band members.

Carried 3-0-0.

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Peter Boney; to approve the minutes of a special meeting held December 19, 2018 at Nett Lake, Minnesota with the correction to the motion Shane Drift made in regard to the donation to the Virginia School Indian Education Program "Winter Indigenous Games" to add he stated "as long as it is in the budget". Carried 3-0-0.

During Shane Drift's correction to the minutes, he said after the meeting he said he sent an email out to Corey in regard to the donation to the Virginia School Indian Education Program "Winter Indigenous Games" because he had a question regarding the consultant fees. Shane said Corey was waiting for a message back from the Virginia School District. Shane asks Corey if he heard anything. Corey Strong

said no, he hadn't heard anything back. Corey said he thinks it is for the people that are putting on the instruction for whatever events they are having. All that was received was the request and one of the items that was listed was the consultant fees. Shane said it would be nice to hear from them to hear exactly what the money will be used for regarding the consultant fees. Chairwoman Chavers said maybe a budget breakdown. Shane said yes, something from them.

New tribal government employees: Teri Morrison introduces Garrett Landgren who is the new Community Health Nurse.

David Morrison Sr. enters the meeting.

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Shane Drift; to adopt resolution #42-2019, authorizing the Transportation Manager to apply for a Department of Transportation (MNDOT) 2019 Public Transit Special Solicitation Capital Facility Grant Program to construct a transit facility, and the transportation program agrees to provide the 20% match of total capital costs. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by David Morrison Sr.; to approve the agreement with W.A. Fisher, who was the low bid, for the website redevelopment for the boisforte.com and the Nett Lake Wild Rice site in the amount of \$13,820.00. This will be implemented after the government shutdown issue is resolved. Carried 4-0-0.

Sidra Starkovich has a draft resolution for the 2019 ICDBG application. It states a dollar amount of \$267,000 in the form of cash as leveraged resources for a new maintenance facility in the Vermillion community of the Bois Forte Reservation. There is a need for a bigger building to park their vehicles and do maintenance on the vehicles. Sidra said they have been working with an architect in putting together a preliminary plan. The ICDBG does require a resolution that identifies an exact dollar amount. Sidra said the \$267,000 is the maximum amount that they would ask for. She said she is still working on the budget and that dollar amount will probably change but it will not go higher. At the end of the week she will have the final resolution for actual signature. She presented this today for discussion on it at a public meeting. Chairwoman Chavers asks when the application is due. Sidra said Monday. She said this application was announced just before Thanksgiving. The first model mock up budget came in over a million dollars. ICDBG does fund up to \$800,000 and to get the max points in the leverage section 25% needs to be leveraged. Chairwoman Chavers asks what is the architectural firm being used. Sidra said they used Tim Meyer (Meyer Group). The reason they used him on a basis of no pay because they don't have any money right now to pay him to do the preliminary mock up and the preliminary budget estimate. The reason they used him was because he was the one that designed public works building in Nett Lake. The building will be designed so later on other things can be added like a salt shed. Head Start would also utilize a bay to store their buses in the winter. Shane asks where the money would come from to keep the building functional. Sidra said the Vermillion facilities budget. Sidra said the plan is not to build a new building but the current building will be renovated. Chairwoman Chavers asks Sidra

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if she has been working with Joel Astleford because one of the things was to reorganize the tribal government departments and to mainstream some of the programs. With regards to the maintenance department it was talked about putting it under public works. Sidra said she hasn't been but has been working with Kevin Strong. Chairwoman Chavers said to include Joel.

Moved by Peter Boney; seconded by David Morrison Sr.; to adopt resolution #43-2019, application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) Program for funding to construct a new Maintenance Facility in the Vermilion Community of the Bois Forte Reservation with an amendment that will be made to the dollar amount by the end of the week. Carried 3-1-0. Shane Drift against on the basis that everything is not in place. There was enough time to get everything is in place, the numbers. And it isn't known how the budget will be next year. Money is tight and the council keeps making cuts and cuts and if there isn't the money to cover the cost of the building what then.

Chairwoman Chavers said a lot of tribal members across the state and the council are hearing about the government shutdown and how it is impacting the tribe. Tomorrow the council will meet with the senior management to come up with a plan with regard to the government shutdown. The BIA and IHS are closed and a lot of federal facilities are on partial shutdown. The BIA are also our law enforcement. We have to come with a list of things for services to our Band members. The tribal government can operate until the third week in January and possibly the fourth as is. If the shutdown lasts longer then we need a contingency plan with which to operate by. The council and senior management will be looking to come up with essential personnel if it lasts longer than the three to four weeks. Essential personnel so that services can still continue for our tribal members. President Trump has invited the delegation of Democrats to the White House to discuss the border wall of his plans because it all boils down to his approval or disapproval. We don't know what that will be, the unknown. Essential services would be, number one would be health care, medical care, prescriptions and other services our senior management feels need to be kept going. Once the plan is done it will be posted on the website as soon as possible. We will know more after meeting with the senior management tomorrow with regard to how things will be going. Chairwoman Chavers said a lot of tribes across the country have enough operating revenue to operate until the third or fourth week in January. An article is coming out of the New York Times by Mitch Smith. We do have that article available where he has discussed with all the tribes. He talked with Aaron Payment, the Chairman of a Michigan tribe where they have enough money to operate until the third week, and most of the other tribes are the same. The federal government does have a trust responsibility to the tribes. They need to come together to work on this issue and come up with a solution because it is going to affect our tribal members in a very bad way. Just so you know, we will be planning our meeting tomorrow and we will get that information out to all of you as soon as possible with regards to the government shutdown because it will affect us if it lasts more than three to four weeks.

Shane Drift said once the plan is in place there should be an all staff meeting to let them know that this is the next step. They will be able to collect unemployment.

Chairwoman Chavers said yes, we will be looking at possible layoffs or staff to take a layoff. That is one of the things that will be discussed tomorrow. Yes, once they do take a layoff they will be eligible for unemployment.

Shane Drift said we need to take advantage of the situation. We need to start building a healthy financial reserve for the tribe and also Fortune Bay. Shane said he stressed this numerous times. Because a rainy day is coming soon. What happens in a couple years from now? We got to start saving, period.

Chairwoman Chavers said the other item on the agenda is the annual report. At the last meeting the council had a discussion and want to work together as a team and get an annual report out in February. Depending on the government shutdown we may be limited with the accounting staff but will try get it done as soon as possible. The annual report was not done last year. The council was going to submit a report that showed the funding from Fortune Bay and how it has been spent by the tribal government. That report is close to being done. Every time our CFO goes to work on it we end up with a crisis or issue arising which diverts her attention from that report. That will be in the annual report this year. Also included in the annual report will be the employment numbers. Also, hopefully it will be broken down not just by Band members, non-Band members, and other tribes but hopefully also including descendants and also those family members that have Band members within the family. The council will work with the accounting department and Fortune Bay to get the annual report out. Shane Drift said he wants to see an official report regarding Powerrain, Tim Hortons, the Y-Express Lube, WELY. All the businesses the Band invested in and failed. Shane said he himself as a Band member always wanted to see an official report. He would like that to be a part of the annual report. Also the breakdown of Fortune Bay compared to previous years.

Chairwoman Chavers said one thing the council all agreed on was the substance abuse on the reservation has not been addressed. That is one area the council will be focusing on in the future. A lot of other tribes have declared a state of emergency. This was presented to the tribal council years ago. It was not acted on and Chairwoman Chavers said she doesn't understand why. Most other tribes have declared a state of emergency with regards to the opioid epidemic, all the other substance use on the reservations whether that be alcohol and drugs. There are things being done through the tribal codes and they are being updated now. They are doing things with law enforcement. A new officer was hired, Officer Meeko, our drug dog.

Corey Strong said there will be an all staff meeting on January 9.

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Peter Boney; to adjourn the meeting at 10:13 a.m. Carried 4-0-0.