



Bois Forte

TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

Minutes of a special meeting of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council held June 5, 2019 at the Lake Vermilion Sector of the Bois Forte Reservation, Minnesota.

Meeting called to order at 9:07 a.m.

Invocation by Gene Goodsky.

A moment of silence is observed for the elders we lost recently.

Members Present: Cathy Chavers; David C. Morrison, Sr.; Travis Morrison;
Shane Drift; Peter Boney

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Jenna Lehti; Gene Goodsky; Vicki Villebrun; Steve Hertig; Jaime Burdick; Theresa Morrison; Andy Dakto; Bill Latady; Joel Astleford; Eddie Chavers; Billie Isham; Darnell Goggeye; Dan Milbridge; Jackie Villebrun; Angela Wright; Darren Landgren; Ray Villebrun Jr.; Miranda Lilya; Whitney Humphrey; Leanne Hoffman; Pam Hughes; Toni Wakemup; Sue Larson; Kim Greiner; Dani Pieratos; Corey Strong; Jaylen Strong; George Strong; Teri Morrison; Christine Lundemo; Heidi Hansen; Indalecia Romero III; Simona Benner; Jennie Rowland; Chaz Wagner; Alex Mehne

Moved by Peter Boney; seconded by David Morrison Sr.; to approve the agenda with the change that Andy Dakto will present Barb Brodeen's agenda item; and to add Leanne Hoffman with an update on the Summer Youth Program. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Peter Boney; seconded by Travis Morrison; to approve the minutes of a special meeting held May 15, 2019 at Nett Lake, Minnesota. Carried 4-0-0.

New tribal government employees: Pam Hughes introduces Heidi Hansen who is the new Substance Abuse Counselor; Billie Isham introduces Indalecia Romero III who is the new Native Youth Coordinator; Angela Wright introduces Jackie Villebrun who is the new ICWA Administrative Assistant.

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- 1) Approved the contract agreement with DSGW Architects, Inc. for the Fortune Bay Resort Casino Exterior Renovations
- 2) Approved the amendment to the Bois Forte System and Use Agreement with Essentia for Behavioral Health Pricing
- 3) Selected the date of May 21, 2019 to review the bids for the Siding Project at Fortune Bay Resort Casino
- 4) Approve the request from Pam Hughes to sole source travel cards and tickets in the amount of \$19,620.00 from Northern Eagle Federal Credit Union for the end of year school trip for the International Falls Program
- 5) Approve the request from Pam Hughes to sole source the charter bus from Voyageur Charter Coach in the amount of \$4,390.00, and the contractual agreement with Great Wolf Lodge for hotel rooms for the end of the year school trip for the International Falls Program
- 6) Approved the Independent Contractor Agreement with Eustice Counseling, LLC for psychology services
- 7) Approved the sole source request from Randy Long for a license renewal for software for Housing with Compudyne in the amount of \$5,040.00
- 8) Approved the Early Head Start 2019-2020 Head Start Grant Application
- 9) Approved the amendment to extend the agreement with Kemper Sports through October 2019.

Carried 4-0-0.

Jaylen Strong asks if the council has a plan set aside for language revitalization. He said there was \$25,000 set aside last year. He said that wasn't enough to start anything. He asks if there is a plan besides KBFT and Education and their programs they have going on.

Chairwoman Chavers said she just came from a Minnesota Indian Affairs Council meeting and the state passed their budget and the governor signed off on legislation and there was \$600,000 funded this year for language and that will be split between the eleven tribes, and it will begin July 1. The council needs to sit down and decide what to do with the funding. There is also funding for the immersion schools. There is also a competitive grant available for language revitalization through the legacy funding. Chairwoman Chavers asks Jaylen if he has any ideas.

Jaylen said the adults could teach their kids. Or leave out the adults and teach the kids because research shows people think learning a language is hard after leaving a critical stage of 6 years old to 16 years old. Jaylen said he thinks the adults and youth could be taught. Jaylen said in talking with Karen Drift and Harvey Thompson they were cut down to a half an hour a week at the Nett Lake School. He said to have language tables at a high school or one of the community centers at 5 pm instead of during the workday. Have someone come in to teach the language. And have a whole curriculum set up. Jaylen said last semester he had to translate from some books some dialogues from some teachers but they were from Bois Forte. He said to fund KBFT to do stories. He said there is the Bois Forte app, but to

improve on it. Just the words are not going to teach the language itself. Have sentences. He said when he was in high school the Ojibwe language was only offered in 11th and 12th grades but Spanish was offered in 9th and 10th grade. He said it would be important to push for the language to be offered in 9th and 10th grade too.

Shane Drift said the Nett Lake School is in the process of extending the hours for Harvey. And they are pushing to get the language back at North Woods. But it would only be for 10th, 11th, and 12th grades. There will be a gap for the 7th, 8th, and 9th grades. The language needs to be put in the strategic plan. When the council met with the Northland Foundation on of the things brought up was funding for the language.

Chairwoman Chavers said Mille Lacs is researching Rosetta. Another tribe has an apprentice that works with a traditional speaker. The language was discussed with North Woods at the tribal consultation. What would help would be community meetings at both Nett Lake and Vermilion regarding the language and culture to see what the community wants to see.

Billie Isham said the Nett Lake School started a language committee that is community driven. Leanne Hoffman said at the last meeting of that committee they talked about who should all be on that committee and thought like the elders, students, council rep. and school board rep.

Chairwoman Chavers said Lower Sioux has a Head Start Immersion Program. Chairwoman Chavers said the council will be going to see that program and also asks Billie and Leanne to go too.

Darren Landgren said when Brandon Benner was here, he started a language committee but that isn't active anymore. He said he hopes the other language committee will stay active. Darren asks what happened with the position Donald Chosa had. Chairwoman Chavers said Donald's position was funded by Fortune Bay dollars and when the other programs had needs that position got taken away. Darren asks about the position Teresa Knife Chief had. Billie Isham said that was a grant, and that is what Chaz Wagner does now. Darren said he was hoping the council would make a resolution for the programs to follow to help with the language instead of making committees and getting these positions and then they fall apart. Jaylen said he would like to see the council fund positions themselves instead of grants.

Pam Hughes said with the Mental Health and Substance Abuse programs they are trying to bring culture in. She said by teaching them when they are younger, the culture and language, it is human. It is important for the youth to know who they are and where they come from. She said for many years, in substance abuse, they have said our culture is our prevention and our traditions is our treatment. They are seeing changes in their outpatient groups. Yesterday the clients in the group labeled everything in the office.

Peter Boney said the council needs to look for the money in the next budget cycle for this.

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David Morrison Sr. said there are different things that can be done. Teach the kids the drum, dancing, beading, stories. Put it in the strategic plan.

Chaz Wagner said it is a challenge. He is being pulled in so many directions. The language and the radio. He would rather focus on just one. People say dialect, it shouldn't be about that. The amount of speakers, we'll eventually lose the dialect. The speakers don't teach anymore that is they the radio gets outside speakers. The English should be our second language.

George Strong said there are developments happening right now. The school will be the best group. George said he doesn't know where North Woods will end up. Look at the strategic plan for seven generations ahead. The radio needs volunteers. George said they haven't been doing the phrase of the day because they have been so busy. George said if you speak they would love to have you.

Moved by David Morrison Sr.; seconded by Peter Boney; to approve the request from Dani Pieratos for the Lake Vermilion Traditional Powwow committee to conduct raffles for the Lake Vermilion Traditional Powwow (pick your own raffle, button raffle, and 50/50 raffle). Carried 4-0-0.

Chairwoman Chavers asks when the powwow will be. Dani Pieratos said June 20-22, 2019.

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Peter Boney; to approve the 2018-2021 Multi-Year Funding Agreement between DHHS Indian Health Service and Bois Forte. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Peter Boney; seconded by David Morrison Sr.; to approve Change order #3 from MB Customs Development in the amount of \$45,470.13 for a back-up generator and parking lot pavement at the Courthouse project. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by David Morrison Sr.; seconded by Peter Boney; to approve the proposal from Architectural Resources Inc. for preparation of electronic record drawings for the Bois Forte Courthouse project, for the fee of \$4,200. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Shane Drift; to adopt resolution #81-2019, accepting Great River's Right-of-Way compensation of \$6,600. Carried 4-0-0.

Andy Datko said this is his last tribal council meeting he is attending. He wants to thank all the tribal council and the staff members. It has been a very enjoyable and rewarding experience working for Bois Forte for almost 25 years. He said he really appreciates the opportunity, and he will miss everyone.

Chairwoman Chavers said thank you to Andy for his service to the Band. The council appreciates all the work he has done, and wish him well in his retirement.

Moved by David Morrison Sr.; seconded by Peter Boney; to approve the contract in the amount of \$25,675 to the State of Minnesota for the Minnesota Department of Health Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant. Funding period July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. And to authorize Chairwoman Cathy Chavers as Authorized Signor for the "Minnesota Department of Health Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant". Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by David Morrison Sr.; to adopt resolution #82-2019, Public Transportation on Indian Reservations NOFO: to request a planning grant to contract a cost/benefit analysis for the benefits of a transit facility. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Peter Boney; seconded by Shane Drift; to adopt resolution #83-2019, Public Transportation on Indian Reservations NOFO: to request a capital grant for the purchase of two ADA vans for non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT). Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Peter Boney; seconded by Shane Drift; to adopt resolution #84-2019, MNDOT grant application for 5311 for 2019 Public Transit Participation Grant Program – Operating funds, to maintain transportation services. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Peter Boney; to adopt resolution #85-2019, MNDOT grant application for 5310 Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities Grant Program – Operating funds. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve the agreement for PRSS (Public Radio Interconnection Systems) to be signed off by George Strong, General Manager, KBFT 89.9 FM Radio. Carried 4-0-0.

Shane Drift asks about the Underwriter position at KBFT. George Strong said he believes Billie Isham and Miranda Lilya were going to rate it and he is waiting for them to get back to him because that position is really needed.

Moved by Peter Boney; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve the FY20 State Head Start Grant in the amount of \$100,680. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Peter Boney; to approve the grant application to the Federal Office of Head Start for supplemental funding for repairs to the playground equipment in Nett Lake in the amount of \$205,954. Carried 4-0-0. Billie Isham said they requested from the Office of Head Start a waiver on the non-federal share of a match requirement. So there would be no cost to the tribe if the grant was awarded and the waiver request was granted.

Shane Drift asks about the indirect cost. Billie Isham said there would be no indirect cost because it is construction.

Shane Drift asks what would happen if the waiver request wasn't granted. Billie Isham said they aren't asking for the match today, and if the Office of Head Start doesn't grant the waiver then it wouldn't be accepted without tribal council approval. Shane asks what the match would be. Billie said 25%.

Moved by David Morrison Sr.; seconded by Travis Morrison; to approve the Minnesota Pathway II FY20 Grant in the amount of \$75,500 for direct quality services to children. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Peter Boney; to approve the Nett Lake Head Start and Early Head Start/Child Care Center License. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Peter Boney; seconded by Travis Morrison; to approve the Vermilion Head Start and Early Head Start/Child Care Center License. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Peter Boney; to approve the revisions to the Direct Employment Guidelines, to change #2 by eliminating "Must reside in St. Louis, Koochiching or Itasca Counties", and to change it to "Receive direct services out of the Nett Lake Workforce, Duluth Urban, or Minneapolis Urban offices". The other change is addresses and phone and fax numbers. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by David Morrison Sr.; seconded by Peter Boney; to approve the request from Billie Isham to sole source the Expanding the Circle Training from the Institute on Community Integration in the amount of \$6,952 pending a budget modification to the ANA grant. (due to the delay in hiring there is extra money to re-budget). Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve the sole source of the purchase of a copier from the Excel Business Systems in the amount of \$12,463.00 pending a budget modification of the ANA grant. The copier will be located in the planning area at the tribal government building in Nett Lake. Carried 4-0-0.

Leanne Hoffman gives an update on the Summer Youth Program. They are able to hire 12 summer youth. Six in Vermilion and six in Nett Lake. Of those twelve, ten will be hired under tribal dollars and two will be hired under the WIA dollars. Currently they are in the pre-employment drug testing stages. They are tentatively set to start work on Monday. They will be stationed as interns in the different departments. They will work for eight weeks. The selection process is they are given a deadline to submit their applications which was May 10. Leanne posted the summer youth program at all of the departments, at the schools, and in the community. When the applications come in they are stamped the date received. If there are applications that come in after the deadline, they can be hired if there are positions available. Leanne separates the applications into ages because the eligibility is oldest to

youngest. Under the tribal dollars they have to have the 2.0 GPA. If they don't have that then Leanne asks them if they have an IPM file, something from the school, otherwise they are referred to the WIA. The WIA is "at-risk" so they don't have to have the 2.0 GPA. They can have a juvenile record because they are at-risk and the program wants to help them.

Shane Drift said there are twelve summer youth workers. The council met with the Northland Foundation and talked about more jobs for the youth. Shane said for example, put twenty youth to work.

Billie Isham said they budgeted for a Summer Youth Supervisor because if the youth can't be placed they will be placed with the supervisor. If the youth are placed in the departments then the supervisor is not needed. Billie said if there is no supervisor they could hire more youth but they couldn't be mowing lawns, they would need to be placed inside gaining meaningful work experience. Shane Drift said he was happy to work and mow lawns. Billie Isham said the parents/community want them to have meaningful jobs. Leanne Hoffman is asked how many applications were there. Leanne said fourteen.

David Morrison Sr. said the council met with the U.S Forest Service a couple years ago and they had a program to hire youth for the summer, all that would have been needed was to transport them as far as Cook, and then they would be working on projects around the area. Leanne said a couple years ago they did work with them but it was a challenge getting the youth there and back. David said now there is the transit program in place. Leanne said the Forest Service used to hire 20 youth but got cut and can only hire 3 now. Jennie Rowland said there are commuter routes that run every day through Cook so transportation is not an issue.

Darren Landgren asks if it is a possibility if the other kids that want to work could do volunteer work to get job experience. There could be a volunteer program.

Peter Boney said that would be a good thing to bring up at the senior management meeting. The other option is that Fortune Bay hires youth ages 16 and older during the summer months. Jenna Lehti said they do that all the time, and The Wilderness is age 15.

Moved by Peter Boney; seconded by David Morrison Sr.; to approve the Homeless Youth Act (HYA) SFY 2018-2021 Grant Contract Amendment. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Peter Boney; seconded by David Morrison Sr.; to appoint the following individuals to the Donation Committee, and to remove Jenna Lehti from the committee: Merrilee Littlewolf, Alanna Drift, Toni Wakemup, Tara Geshick, and Corinna Lyons. Sidra Starkovich is on the committee and will remain on the committee. Carried 4-0-0.

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Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Peter Boney; to appoint Joel Boshey and Stan Day to the MCT Constitutional Delegates. Carried 4-0-0.

Chairwoman Chavers said the purpose of the delegates is to come up with a way to educate the Band members on the MCT constitution. Grand Portage had brought this up because there was just a delegate meeting at Grand Portage. The purpose is not to revise the constitution, it is to educate the Band members on the constitution. The delegation doesn't really understand that. They need some direction and education on what their roles are. Chairwoman Chavers said in talking with some of the other tribal leaders last week, she will be asking Gary Frazer to have an educational session with all of the MCT delegates on exactly what their role is, because there is just confusion. And for Bois Forte there needs to be a meeting with our delegates to have them say who is going to be in charge and who is going to do what because there is some confusion with regards to that aspect. Chairwoman Chavers said that will be happening in the near future.

Moved by Peter Boney; seconded by David Morrison Sr.; to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 a.m. Carried 4-0-0.