



Bois Forte

TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

Invocation by Gene Goodsky via telephone.

Minutes of a special meeting of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council held May 20, 2020 at Nett Lake, Minnesota.

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

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Randy Long; Joel Astleford; Darnell Goggeye; Darren Landgren; Evertt Huisman; Jaylen Strong; Vondalee Carr; George Strong; Simona Benner; Alanna Drift via telephone

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Peter Boney; to approve the agenda with the following changes: remove Wendy Thompson with the Revised Tribal Code, add George Strong with a contract for KBFT, add Alanna Drift with discussion on Tribal I.D.'s, add discussion on putting COVID-19 grant information Bois Forte has received on the website, add discussion on appointments to the election boards, add discussion on how the elections will be held because of COVID-19, and Notaries for the elections because the banks will be closed, and gift cards for EMS appreciation week (Chairwoman Chavers said it does not need to be done through official action because it is budgeted in special projects every year, it is for their services and volunteerism). Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by David Morrison Sr.; to approve the minutes of a special meeting held May 6, 2020 at Nett Lake, Minnesota. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Peter Boney; seconded by Travis Morrison; to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- 1) Approved a \$1,500 donation to Chester Graue who lost his house due to a fire on May 6, 2020
- 2) Adopted Resolution No. 90-2020, Family Violence Prevention Services grant
- 3) Approved a Contract for Lab Services with Cook Hospital
- 4) Approved to waive the procurement policy and approve a Construction Agreement with Custom Masonry.

Carried 4-0-0.

Jaylen Strong said the Lac La Croix First Nations elders started a project, to find all the traditional names for the lakes that are up toward Ely and the Boundary Waters area. Jaylen was contacted by a person from the Ely Folk School who works with a person from Lac La Croix to find those names. They only have the names on the Canadian side of the border and they wanted to partner up with Bois Forte to see if Bois Forte could find the names for the U.S. side. Jaylen asked them to reach out to Grand Portage too because Grand Portage might have different names for those lakes, or if Bois Forte don't have any names for those lakes they might, or if Bois Forte doesn't have anyone that remembers those names Grand Portage might know too. Jaylen asks if it would be okay to send an email to the person from Lac La Croix in order to get this project started. Jaylen said he doesn't know how it would work now with the COVID stuff, because it would require visitations with the elders. He said he probably wouldn't do it right now but he brought it up today to get it on the table and on everyone's mind and move forward from there. Chairwoman Chavers said she thinks it sounds like a great project and to get as much history as possible. She doesn't know how the visitations would work with the elders, probably phone. Jaylen said it would be good project. Chairwoman Chavers asks the Council if they are okay with Jaylen pursuing that project. Council agree.

Jaylen Strong said a grant was received from the National Park Service for the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) in the amount of \$76,355 and said the council needs to accept the grant. He applied for the grant on April 30 and the money was received. Jaylen said he said he didn't hear back from the Council on the sharing of the THPO Officer so he put in an intern for 28 hours a week for six months. He was thinking maybe a college student that would be interested in doing that. He got a call from Arizona State College who was interested in the shared THPO. Jaylen told him to reach out to Grand Portage because as far as Jaylen knows they haven't found a replacement for their THPO.

Chairwoman Chavers said it was kind of put aside when the pandemic started but it was discussed at the 1854 Treaty Authority board meeting in February to maybe having a position through the 1854 with the possibility of the funds going down there. They thought they would get a better job pool down there in the Duluth area. She wasn't sure how the position would be funded with the main position being housed at the 1854 and handling both Bois Forte and Grand Portage. Chairwoman Chavers said whatever Jaylen thinks about it because he is handling two jobs and it is hard to handle two jobs. She said his idea of having a student come in is a good idea. She said she sent an email to the Chairwoman of Grand Portage, Beth Drost, wondering what they were going to do with their THPO position, but hasn't heard back yet. When she does Chairwoman Chavers said she would forward the email to Jaylen and then Jaylen can let them know about the Arizona person. Jaylen said he thinks the person at the 1854 Office would handle the Ceded Territory and the THPO Officers are supposed to only work on the reservation. He said but on the bigger projects that would take years, then they would all work collaboratively. Chairwoman Chavers said that could be something to talk to the National Park Service about. Try to have a meeting with them and Grand Portage to discuss additional funding for the THPO position because there isn't really enough for a full-time position. It is hard to find someone to do it part-time. It is critical to have this position because it deals with tribal and historic preservation.

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Moved by Peter Boney; seconded by David Morrison Sr.; to approve the grant renewal for the THPO position in the amount of \$76,355. Carried 4-0-0.

Vondalee Carr said because of the shutdown of the Head Start/Child Care Centers and the Corona Virus they haven't been able to go through the normal procedure to renew their license. So they are requesting a provisional license for the Nett Lake and Vermilion Head Start and Early Head Start-Child Care Centers until Indian Health Service can come in to inspect.

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Travis Morrison; to approve provisional licenses for the Nett Lake Head Start and Early Head Start-Child Care Centers effective June 1, 2020 through May 31, 2021. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Peter Boney; to approve the contract with Keith Secola for the KBFT 89.9 FM Community Radio "Native Americana" audio café podcast. Carried 4-0-0.

Chairwoman Chavers said the Tribal I.D. issue came up in the senior management meeting. The Driver's License Bureaus are closed. People are losing I.D.'s. With the pandemic, people are wondering how to get their tribal I.D.'s. So the issue is how to get the tribal I.D.'s to the Band members with the current policy that is in place. The policy is very restrictive with the documents they need to obtain the tribal ID's. People in the cities could have got the documents they needed but that is not available now.

Alanna Drift is called on the telephone.

Chairwoman Chavers tells Alanna there is a concern from senior management, the urban offices expressed the concern that there was difficulty with people that lost their belongings, wallet, etc., lost all identification. And with the Driver's License Bureaus being closed, they want to know if there is a way to get Tribal ID's without coming in person, if the staff at the urban offices can verify them. Legal counsel was contacted and they think if a possible somewhat temporary waiver of the policy just during the pandemic because the individuals are unable to obtain some things like a birth certificate, until there is a different solution.

Simona Benner asks if that would take away the status of it being like a state I.D. Chairwoman Chavers said that was asked of the tribal attorneys and they said no.

Simona said the only problem would be if they haven't had an I.D. in a while, their picture isn't saved. Simona said Alanna has been issuing CID's which is a Certificate of Indian Blood. Simona doesn't know how that is working though. It shows their name, date of birth, parents, blood degree, and if their picture is in the system the picture is on it too. Alanna emails the CID to the person and also mails the original to them. She said the conservation officers accepted those during netting. There were a couple Fortune Bay employees that requested a CID and as far as Alanna knows, they were okay to use.

Chairwoman Chavers said she doesn't know if people are able to use those to cash a check or something, but asks Alanna to check with the Department of Public Safety to see if they will accept the CID's. Chairwoman Chavers will mention that with the call this afternoon with the state (they meet every day at 4) and she will also email the tribal liaison for the Governor's office about the CID's, especially for Bois Forte, because the other tribes are still issuing I.D.'s.

Peter Boney asks if there is a fee for the CID's. Simona said no, the only fee is with the tribal I.D.'s. If they are replacing it or changing their address.

Chairwoman Chavers asks Simona and Alanna to put something on the website that if someone loses their tribal I.D. they can request a CID.

David Morrison Sr. asks about the people that live out of state. Simona said they can request a CID and if they had a tribal I.D. within the past five years, their picture should be in the database.

Alanna Drift off telephone.

Chairwoman Chavers said there are agencies, foundations, and business that are sending out money for COVID-19 related projects, funding for supplies, food, that type of thing. Through the first round of stimulus money, the Band did receive from the Treasury Department 2.2 million that was based on population. That was the largest amount of money that was received, and the minimum was about \$2,500. The money keeps coming in, there are new funding opportunities that become available for COVID or the pandemic, to assist with areas from mental health to children to food to testing supplies, all of that.

Kim Greiner will be having a weekly budget meeting with individuals to talk about where the funding is coming from and how the money should be spent. They are coming up with a priority list by Friday for the use of those funds. There are thirty programs that are getting in money. There are timelines when that money has to be spent. Nothing really has been spent mainly except for food and Elderly Nutrition Program cooks. The ENP cooks were pulled because they were elder, age 55 and over. So the cooks were supplemented with using staff. Chairwoman Chavers said it is in the best interest of the Band and Band members that a financial report is done. Whatever is not used will have to be sent back. There are different dates when the money has to be used. The first money has to be spent by June 6. Another one has to be spent by September 30.

Chairwoman Chavers said the payroll protection program that everyone hears about for small businesses. Bois Forte did apply for that for the casino. Basically it funded two months' worth of salary for those employees that were going to be either laid off or because they closed the casino. Chairwoman Chavers said Shane mentioned there is two months to come up with a plan to put those employees back to work and if they aren't or they are below a certain amount of employees then some

of that money will need to be paid back. Chairwoman Chavers said the council is trying to make decisions based on the best interest of the Band and the safety of the tribal members and employees. The PPE program has a timeline of June 9 and that is what funded the casino's salaries. The council is also keeping track of the donations that came in – Grand Portage donated fish which will be given to ENP for the elders' meals, and Mille Lacs that donated hams and were given to households. A farmer down south is donated tons of potatoes for the MCT. So there will be a potato distribution in a couple weeks.

David Morrison said there three vacancies on the election boards that need to be filled. One for the General Election Board, one for the District II Election Board, and one for the Duluth Urban Office Election Board. David hands out the list of the current elections boards with some names he felt might be interested in serving in those spots. He asks the other council members to come up with names of individuals too that they think might be interested. Chairwoman Chavers asks Randy Long and Joel Astleford to call those individuals to see if they are interested, and if any other council has any names of people that might be interested to give those names to Joel or Randy before 3 pm today.

David Morrison Sr. said Fond du Lac has a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan for The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Primary and General Elections on the Fond du Lac Reservation. It is a plan for election day for things like taking temperatures of board members and voters before entering the polling place, cleaning and disinfecting voting booths after each use, wearing masks, social distancing, etc. David said Bois Forte needs a plan that needs to be adopted too. Chairwoman Chavers said the council can read this over and a poll can be done on it and to get the information out to election workers and the Band members so they are aware of the policies to make it safe for them to come vote.

David Morrison Sr. said the Council needs to notify the MCT by June 4 on the choice of an Appellate Forum for the election. Joel or Randy will email the attorney for recommendation on the selection of an Appellate Forum.

Shane Drift asks about curbside voting and what happens if it rains. Chairwoman Chavers said the Damiano building in Duluth will be closed but Wendy Drift mentioned the parking lot could be used, but there would have to be tents or something set up for the drive by voting. In Minneapolis the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe building will be open. In Nett Lake the government building will be open. And in Vermilion the "Vermilion Center" will be open.

Moved by Peter Boney; seconded by Shane Drift; to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 a.m. Carried 4-0-0.