

**TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE
NORTHERN CHEYENNE RESERVATION
LAME DEER, MONTANA**

REGULAR SESSION

MINUTES
January 2, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: President Wetheretl called the meeting to order at 9:13 a.m.

INVOCATION: Nizhoni Friesz

ROLL CALL:

	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Melissa Lonebear	X		
Debra Charette	X		
Norma Gourneau	X		
Eva Foote <i>*arrived @ 9:41 a.m.</i>		X	
Torrey Davie	X		
Serena Wetherelt, President	X		
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President		X	
Silver Little Eagle	X		
Nizhoni Friesz	X		
Donavin Limberhand	X		
Gwen Spottedhorse	X		
Melissa Fisher	X		
Total:	10	2	

Quorum Established

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Do we have any announcements?

COUNCILMAN DAVIE: As we all know; the Fort Robinson run is next week. The safety of the runners and the people escorting them is of utmost importance. I urge my colleagues here. Madam President, to coordinate with local law enforcement as well as anybody who wants to help. I encourage the societies to help escort the runners once they reach the reservation boundary outside of Ashland. I urge you all to escort these runners safely so we can have a safe run. We owe it to them for sacrificing their wellbeing by making that run all the way from Ft. Robinson. I urge you all to push as hard as we can this week to get as much safety precaution during that run as we can. Thanks.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Thank you. Any other announcements. I have one. I would like to move #6 down to the bottom and #4 down, right above that. Wallace is working on the documentation now. Then we'll go into executive session for #6 with Brian. Any other announcements? With no other announcements, we'll go to item #1, IHS.

ITEM #1 – INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

ACTING CEO, SABLE KERZMAN: Good morning. Did everybody have a good holiday weekend. Good to see you all here this morning. I just had a couple of people that I would like to introduce first before I get started with the report. Ada Iron has come to us. She actually started about 6 months ago at the Service Unit and she wasn't ever formally announced here, as far as I'm aware. I just wanted everybody to know that Ada Iron is our new finance officer at the Service Unit. It's actually a position that we haven't had for quit a while. It was abolished, I want to say, maybe 8 years ago and it was added into our Deputy CEO roll. Throughout the last 8 years, we've identified that there's far too much on that Deputy CEO roll so we broke the finance portion off of that again and Ms. Ada Iron is now the new finance officer in that roll. She supervises the business office operations so she is over the business office and H.I.M. departments and the patient registration department as well. Just so everybody is aware, if you have complaints about patient reg, you go to Ada now. She's doing an excellent job. Also, one thing about the patient registration department, we've still been consistently receiving complaints from patients about it. Completely understandable. We do review all of those and we've taken a lot of that feedback and tried to incorporate it into changing or making minor tweaks to that intake process. Not only when you come into the building in the main lobby but also in the urgent care department. We've had some good feedback from our patients and community on that as well. Also, I just wanted to thank everybody for making sure that they let us know what's working well and what's not. The other introduction that I'd like to make is Dr. Bill Reidman. He's actually our Chief Pharmacist at the Service Unit. Probably a very familiar face to many of you. He is taking our Acting Clinical Director role, effective December 17th. So, he just took that a couple of weeks ago. If you'll recall, it was previously Tara Salley. She's a PA that works in our Urgent Care clinic. We need her, desperately, to be back in the clinic seeing patients and providing medical services. We made this change and we're hoping that Bill continues and I'm sure that he will continue to make some improvements. He will supervise the medical staff at the clinic. So, if you have any questions or needs or anything, feel free to reach out to him.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: How long has he been in there?

ACTING CEO SABLE KERZMAN: December 17th was his first day. So, Tara is actually gonna be helping not only in urgent care but she's gonna be seeing some really important appointments like hospital follow-ups and things that we're having trouble getting access for right now. So, she's going to open some of that up. So, she couldn't do the administrative duties of that job and full patient care.

COUNCILMAN DAVIE: I have a question for you not pertaining to either. I was wondering what the process is for when somebody comes in with like a break. Like a broken hand, a broken carpal, metatarsal bones. I had somebody that was, I was there when they broke their

foot and they have had to wait almost two weeks. I mean those bones are pretty important to get fixed right away, right? So, the referral process to ortho, how long does that usually take?

ACTING CEO SABLE KERZMAN: So, generally speaking, if it's something that's urgent, like if it's a broken bone, that's something that needs a, might need an immediate fix. Right. It depends on how bad it is. But if it's severe, it would be an urgent referral. Meaning they'd be sent within the next 24 hours.

COUNCILMAN DAVIE: Ok. So, that was the case. So, this person had to go from the urgent care, down here, and they just went to Crow. Then Crow did all the referrals but the urgent care down here was telling them that they would get ahold of them when they got the referral done and they never. So, it took four days to where they finally said you know what I got to go somewhere else and they went to Crow.

ACTING CEO SABLE KERZMAN: So, I'd be interested to see the information if you could have them give us a call.

COUNCILMAN DAVIE: I believe a complaint was filed with you guys.

ACTING CEO SABLE KERZMAN: Oh, ok. Good. I'll look into it. But I do know generally speaking, if there's something severe, it gets transferred from our urgent care department.

COUNCILMAN DAVIE: Yeah. That's what I figured. I don't know what the deal was but

ACTING CEO SABLE KERZMAN: Ok.

COUNCILMAN DAVIE: Yeah. If you could follow up on that. I'll let you know afterwards who was and some of the details on it. But, yeah, if you could.

ACTING CEO SABLE KERZMAN: Any other questions. Does anybody have anything for Ada or Dr. Reidman?

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: I just hope that because, we get, I don't wanna say complaints, but people voiced their concerns to us about different things. I just hope that having Bill in there that things do get resolved or at least people get responses to their concerns

ACTING CEO SABLE KERZMAN: I think that's a valid statement Melissa. So, and I can tell you that I have a lot of faith that I think they will be. So, that's one area that I know should be improved. I know Tara had a very hard time because she was about 80% clinical, still, and trying to do all of the administrative functions of the clinical director. It's just not possible. So, that's why I ultimately ended up taking her out. I think that she's much more valuable to our people, to our community, providing services, you know, providing healthcare as a provider. Whereas Bill is the Chief of Pharmacy and we happen to have several new pharmacy employees plus contractors so we're well staffed in there. It made a lot more sense to have Bill do the supervisory part of it. So, I hear your concern though. Anybody else? Ok, so I quickly I just wanted to show you all the CEO report. So, this is a monthly summary. Actually, something

that was sent out by Bryce Red Grave, Area Director. He wanted a standardized template for how the CEO's were reporting to the councils, and I think it's a really good idea because some places are getting certain information and others aren't. So, we just want to make sure that everybody is getting the same really important information. So, to walk you through this a little bit, if you look at the operation summary, this of course is for the last quarter. So, it's October through December. We have outlined all of our clinical visits by service. So, primary care visits, urgent care, dental, physical therapy, and optometry. Optometry is the service we currently don't have an optometrist. So, those numbers that you're seeing reflected in those are actually our JVN procedures to test for diabetic retinopathy. So, if you look at our trend from October to December, you'll notice specifically in our primary care visits hovering around 500. In November it was right around 600 and then it dropped significantly to 350. I just wanted to point out that that is due to losing both doctor Jeff Kennedy and doctor Karen Kennedy. They moved where their daughter is located, I think in Washington. They now have a grandchild so they moved and relocated to work there and be closer to her. So, we lost a pediatrician and our internal medicine physician which we were very, very sad to lose. We are currently recruiting those. Hopefully we'll have job advertisements out within the next two weeks on USA jobs.gov. One thing also to mention about the position that Bill is in, the clinical director position, that is out on USA jobs. It's been advertised actually for about four months now. It's open until filled so it's just continuously on the website. The catch with that position is you do have to have an MD degree. So, you have to be a licensed physician and you have to have a medical doctor degree to qualify for that job. So, if anybody knows any very good, qualified IP cap candidates that'd be great, send them our way. We desperately want to fill that clinical director role. It's extremely important in the service unit but, as of yet, we have not been able to fill it. If you take a look at our urgent care visits, usually when you see a decrease in primary care access, you'll see that pickup in the urgent care clinic. Naturally people still need to get in and get healthcare so they go where they're able to access it and usually that's the urgent care clinic if they can't get an appointment. So, you'll see those numbers from October to December also increase into December due to the lack of primary care visits that are available. Dental is usually pretty steady, around the mid 5 hundred. Physical therapy, Louis Milan, is back. He's our new physical therapist. Some of you might remember Lewis. He was here before. He's a commissioned officer and he's a very, very good PT. So, he started seeing patients at the end of October and you'll see his numbers reflected there. Any questions about the clinical visit summary? Pretty straightforward but if you guys come up with anything or you think of anything after, feel free to give me a call or e-mail.

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: Do you have an optometrist?

ACTING CEO SABLE KERZMAN: We do not. Nope. And actually, the job advertisement, just so you know Deb, it's not advertised yet. It is in classification right now with area so we're waiting for it to be classified before it can go out on the advertisement again.

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: Ok.

ACTING CEO SABLE KERZMAN: We're hoping to get one soon.

PRESIDENT WETHERELT: You're last one was on a contract, right?

ACTING CEO SABLE KERZMAN: Our last optometrist, he was a permanent staff member and he relocated to somewhere else. We actually let him go.

PRESIDENT WETHERELT: Oh, ok.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: So, on your bottom, the staffing part of it, it says vacant, funded positions 65. Is that what we're lacking here?

ACTING CEO SABLE KERZMAN: you're jumping ahead.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: I'm sorry. You're talking about the optometrist.

ACTING CEO SABLE KERZMAN: Yeah, so let's talk a little about that because that's usually the hot topic. We have 178 total funded positions for the clinic and 65 of those are vacant right now. Our real vacancy rate, it shows, is 36% which is fairly high. It's comparable to the other service units in the area unfortunately and probably what IHS is seeing overall in the nation. But, it's definitely, it starts to impact things once you have a vacancy rate that high. So, what we're trying to do is supplement the clinical positions that we can with contractors. So, you'll see we have 18 contractor positions, so eighteen of those 65 vacant are filled with contractors. All of those are clinical functions, meaning their nurses, their providers, their pharmacists, they're doing something in a clinical role. So, that brings our adjusted vacancy rate to 26%. Which, if you think about it, that means you're going at 100% with 74% of the staff. So, just keep that in mind. That's something good to be aware of. Especially, I know sometimes, you know, our patients are needing something and it's very important or somebody's not answering the phone. I've heard that a lot. Just keep in mind, you know, there are some positions that are still vacant and roughly, you know, over 40 of them. So, we are trying our best to really focus. The majority of my time and the deputy CEO really is being allotted at making sure that our provider schedule is accurate and full for the urgent care so we have coverage. Then also making sure that we're getting our job advertisements out and that we're actively recruiting and retaining our staff that we have now. Any questions about that Melissa?

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: No. Well, we've just expressed our concerns to the regional staff regarding the hires and the time it takes for the people here.

ACTING CEO SABLE KERZMAN: I do encourage you actually to do that because, you know, sometimes a very power thing is when the tribes are actually advocating for those things because we have the same frustrations too about it. If we jump back up to the purchase and referred care. So, it used to be called our contract care department but basically this is all of our specialty, out of facility care, that we can't provide in the building. So, you'll see our funding marker there at 3.4 million, how many referrals were issued in 2023. There were a total of 1123 referrals for 757 patients total. The spent year to date, that's actually the numbers a little, I guess, it's not really revealing the actual expenditure on those visits. It's everything that's been paid out so far so there's a lot of visits that have not had the payouts completed on those yet. Our average weekly spending, that's the number that comes from our referrals that are reviewed on a weekly basis by our resource management committee. On average, we're spending about \$122,000 on specialty or out of out of facility referral care. Our medical priority funding level right now is at

a four. For those of you that recall, we have 5 levels. Level one through 5. Level one is our emergent only. Some of you probably remember when we used to function actually at a level 2. Does anybody recall that? So, it was when there were certain, even surgeries, orthopedic things that were not being done at that time because there was not the money allotted for that. So, now that we're operating at a level 4, we approve almost every referral that comes through the facility. So, I would probably guess to say about 99% of the referrals that are generated are approved to be scheduled and paid for. Level 5 services, just so you guys are aware of those, are usually alternative therapies and things that IHS in general doesn't cover. So, level 4 funding means we're covering just about anything that we can. Any questions about that? Third party collection. So, as we go through here, I'm not going to go through too much of this. What I think we'll do is when I bring the report back next month, we'll be able to go through and analyze this a little bit closer. But just to give you a really broad overview, you can take a look at our Medicare Medicaid and private insurance PI collections throughout the year. The number in the right-hand column for the variance, we want that number to be over 25% because we're only looking at the money or the collections from the first quarter. So, we're looking at 25% of that. We adjust our goals on a yearly basis depending on what we can foresee or adjust according to what's going on. So, for instance with the COVID pandemic, we greatly adjusted our goals because we knew that our visits were going to be very, very low. We had very limited access to the building at that time. So, now we're working on readjusting our goals and getting everything kind of back to where it should be post COVID coming out of the pandemic. You'll see, for the most part, in the right-hand column for the variance, we're meeting our Medicaid and private insurance goals. For quarter to quarter one, we exceeded them. Medicare, we're still down but we actually, I think that's according to an issue that we have in billing. We are short staff members in our billing department and one of them is actually targeted at billing Medicare specifically. So, we are trying to work on filling that position right away. The VA, we haven't focused entirely on, mostly because we've been trying to focus our billers on Medicaid and private insurance at this time. That's a really good point to bring up also. That Medicaid, just so everybody is aware, we do work with Johanna Spang in the PRC department so she can get our patients that get referrals signed up for the resources that they need, or they qualified for. But I highly encourage everybody, you know, Medicaid dropped off and everybody that had Medicaid has to resign up or at least renew. So, please make sure that we're letting our community members know that and that we're letting everybody know it is going to take an active effort that everybody does have to at least either log in online or go to Johanna Spang at Medical Resources and make sure that their Medicaid coverage is going to roll over, that it can be renewed. We do a lot of our facility updates and a lot of our adding clinical provider positions, and things like that, come directly from our third-party reimbursement. So, it's extremely important that our patients that qualify for resources, that they have everything that they qualify for and it benefits them and it benefits the service unit because we're able to do things to improve their care.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: So, as far as like signups go, we went to Helena and we had a meeting on the T-HIP situation. They were going to schedule, and I think they had one, for sure, where they did sign ups.

ACTING CEO SABLE KERZMAN: I know Johanna went out on the Behavioral Health bus. She went out to each of the districts for a couple of days and did that, which is good. But hopefully, you know, people that are watching on the on the live stream will might

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: If there are other ways that you can think of that we can reach as many people as we can. I know that's always been an issue with the billing part, is making sure and it helps the patient.

ACTING CEO SABLE KERZMAN: Absolutely. That's who it helps the most. So, one thing I know is, it's a lot for one person. It might be helpful to get in communication with Johanna and just see what that volume that she's seeing is because that's a lot of people to sign up independently. I don't think she has another person added yet, or she might. But that might be helpful.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: they have numbers of how many

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: I think that. So, when you guys do the discharge, it's mostly just right by the nurse, right? Or like that, when they're done.

ACTING CEO SABLE KERZMAN: At the facility?

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Yeah.

ACTING CEO SABLE KERZMAN: Yeah.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Remember how they do it at the, like St. V's. Like they were discharged person that comes to them.

ACTING CEO SABLE KERZMAN: Yes.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: I think that should be. Maybe Johanna needs more help so we can get more people out there to see patients as well.

ACTING CEO SABLE KERZMAN: That's actually something that we tested. If you remember when Michael Walks Along worked there. We have Michael set up in the triage room area and he actually saw every person acting to the clinic I thought that that worked really well but after he left Johanna you know she's got her office and I just don't think she had the capacity to try to do off so I'm hoping that's something maybe that the Board of Health is looking at and that's something you know we can we've definitely been open to incorporating a a medical resources person somewhere into our clinic and even giving up a space to try to allow them space to

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: So, if that department grows then they have options for office space.

ACTING CEO SABLE KERZMAN: I don't know about office space but I think we could definitely talk about workspace.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Yeah, workspace.

ACTING CEO SABLE KERZMAN: We are out of space. We are completely out of space.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Most of the that Medicaid stuff could be. I mean, look at how those guys operate like at, you know, they just push that cart with that laptop on it and you just do mostly all the information right there.

ACTING CEO SABLE KERZMAN: So, one of the things that our quality department is working on right now is improving our discharge process, just so you know Melissa. One of the things is that really patients should leave with patient education or information from their visit. So, that's something that you guys will all be seeing very shortly. We're trying to implement it now so that everybody's leaving with education about their visit and then a summary of the medications and things that were done. So, I think that would be really helpful and would fill, probably, a part of what you're referring to Melissa.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Thank you.

ACTING CEO SABLE KERZMAN: Anything else on that? Ok. I'll skim through here the rest of this really quickly. So, our next governing body meeting, this is more for awareness Madam President, but February 6th. They will be virtual so they will not be on site that day but we'd love for you to call in and the tribal council also, I will send out an invite. Our accreditations status; so, the Joint Commission, we were initially awarded that in June of 2022. We also did the optional primary care medical home certification. Those things require a lot of training and a lot of updating and upkeep to continue. So, those are things that are literally on my daily workflow. Number of days to next available appointment. So, I put in parentheses here, not a same day appointment, because we do keep same day appointments available with every provider every day for call ins in the morning. In terms of a scheduled appointment, we are six days out for the next available scheduled appointment currently. That's in the outpatient medical for primary care. Accomplishments; so, the quality department Is working on enhancing patient safety measures along with what I just mentioned with discharge information. But what it does is it really holds our staff to the highest standards for care delivery. So, we do a lot of monitoring and reviewing of specific visits, cases, chart reviews, audits and things like that. What we're doing is the quality team ensures that every, basically, measure or requirement is met during every visit. If they find things, they are able to target education, training and things like that toward the providers or nurses. Whatever the healthcare discipline was. And then challenges, human resources, and staffing; this is probably going to stay as a challenge. I understand that for a while but it's still definitely needs to be listed as number one. We need qualified, good healthcare professionals. Not only healthcare professionals. We have a lot of vacancies in some of our clerical positions. Some of entry level positions. I really implore our community to get on usajobs.gov and search in Lame Deer and see what positions we have available. There's a lot on there. We have a lot of jobs that we need filled and I would love to see them filled by local applicants. If anybody has any questions or needs any information, feel free to give me a call at the clinic or they can also call Mardell Nichols. She's our Acting Deputy CEO. She does our HR for the facility. I'm going to put her number on blast here. It's 477-4402. I've also got listed under challenges here that continuing to meet Joint Commission standards has been a major task being short staffed. Everything that we're doing is to try to

maintain our accreditation which in turn allows us to build for our services through CMS appropriately. Which in turn allows us to expand our services, hire medical professionals. Hopefully, very, very soon, expand our urgent care department within the next four years. That's a major, major plan that we need done and it's gonna take money that ----- funneling into that project. All of these things are very intertwined and very important and dependent on each other. Any other questions or comments?

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: Thank you Sable. I appreciate you, personally. Seems like our voices are being heard since you've been in this position. I just want to thank you for that.

ACTING CEO SABLE KERZMAN: I appreciate that Melissa.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Yes. Thank you. We've never gotten a report like this.

ACTING CEO SABLE KERZMAN: Bryce gets the credit for this. I can't take the credit. I did get all the data. Thank you all. Have a good day.

ITEM #2 – BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

SUPERINTENDENT ANDREW WERK: Good morning Tribal Council. I hope your holidays went well. Hope you had a good break. I just, I wanna wish you all a happy new year. I have a lot to report for the first part of the year. I appreciate IHS's report. It's good to submit a written report so starting next month I'll be following suit and doing the same. For our programs, Forestry has been working on a mapping project. Stand exam project. Still waiting on an appeal for the Richard springs salvage logging unit. Doing some temporary appraisals with reality. Fire; we had 17 fires in 2023 here. A total of 200 acres. Of those, we had 9 human caused, 5 by lightning and 3 coal seam fires. Our fire staff are fire ready. They are all back from their assignments. We haven't had any requests for fire assignments lately. They're also working on some pile projects. Working on their fire prevention plan for 2025. We're also working on some equipment that we'll be transferring to the Tribe. They do have some staff that have been furloughed. We've placed them on a detail in some other program positions at the Agency. Social Services is pretty much the same. We've got 84 child welfare cases; 17 GA cases currently. We have taken some GA applications. Most of our money is applied to the Child Welfare Program first. Then, if we do have extra funding, we will apply it to GA. Just continue to work with families for reunification. The program has been collaborating with a lot of the Tribal programs. Like the Human Services, Recovery, Tribal Court, Prosecution office. The continue to work on their educational goals. They transferred some cases to the Tribe and that's gone well, according to the supervisor. For Realty, we just continue to process leases, renewals. This time of year, we have a lot of operators come in and want to renew their leases. Going to be working on advertisements. Also, our right of way project. Just want to make the council aware that we submitted those valuation requests based on our meeting that we had with TRECO, the Region and the ABSO and what the Tribe wanted. We submitted 2 valuation requests. One for the 3 transmission lines with TRECO and the other one was for the substations. I'll continue to check in with ABSO and get the status of that and report it back to the council. We'll be looking

forward to the same process with Range and Bighorn. I assume we'll be having meetings with, similar like the one with TRECO with the Tribe. We'll continue to work on their right of ways as far as identifying them as renewals. If they are still a right of way or if they qualify for a service line agreement and we'll be presenting that information to the Tribe. For Range, we advertised or primary allocation period. That started on December 5th to December 18th. We posted that all throughout the reservation and neighboring communities. We mailed out our packets to the existing permittees. I think, if I remember right, we only got one back. The address wasn't correct. We received the application. We submitted those to the Grazing Board. I've been in communication with them. We had some late applications come in too that week of the 18th and even last week. As we've gotten those applications, I've sent them over to the Grazing Board for consideration. I know that they were meeting last week and they were considering applications, approving some of them. I got one set of minutes back. I got multiple set but as far as approving applications, I got one set of minutes back last week. I'll be looking forward to, I figure more of this week, as they continue to consider and approve applications. As we get those, we'll process permits and start getting invoices out to the permittees. Our plan, in accordance with the Ordinance, is to make sure that we are getting our invoices out by January 15th. That's what we're required to do in the grazing ordinance. Once we get them out, the next deadline will be February 14th for them to have their other payments submitted. Then after February 15th, be looking forward to the 2nd round. In looking at it now, we are definitely going to have surplus for the second round. I just want to step back a second. Prior to that, we did send out our 90-day authorizations. Can't remember if I reported that at a prior council meeting but we did send those out. We've gotten a number of responses back on that with the land owners, you know, if they approve it or not approve. As far as not approving, working with staff to explain to land owners so they are aware that if they don't want their land in the range unit, you know, you have to get majority consent from the other land owners. Unless you are one over one, majority consent from the other land owners, if you want to do that. Then there's a process in the grazing ordinance that. Also, in the CFR as far as if you want to do that, you got to fence off your property. We've had a number back that approve them. We also got a large number of them that got sent back because the address wasn't correct or updated that we have in our system.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: So, do you have like a timeline or whatever. Like for responses. I know the letters say to respond by a certain date but for the BIA's tracking. My concern is the communication between the landowner and the person leasing and the BIA.

SUPERINTENDENT ANDREW WERK: Yeah. I mean, I can go back and check but I'm pretty sure they call them a 90-day notice for a reason. You're supposed to send 90 days prior to the next grazing season which we did. A lot of those point out the 90 days. I can go back and check, Councilwoman Lonebear, on the deadline that we set for them. I do know, or been made aware by staff, that it's real common to where they are not even returned at all. Like what I was just getting to, our addresses aren't up to date.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: Yeah. Can you put out a thing like you do for the unclaimed, whatever. Put a list out and say we need updated address for these people. We can share it. We can reach out to people because a lot of times they don't get the mail or they aren't even aware that their paperwork hasn't been processed.

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: But, with the 90-day notices, once that doesn't, within that timeline that it doesn't come back, doesn't it say in there that you would act on their behalf?

SUPERINTENDENT ANDREW WERK: That's what I was just getting to also. That with our fiduciary responsibility, if we don't get any response that we have a responsibility to act on their behalf. So, we continue to process the current stuff that they're in. To answer your question also. We had so many of them returned. We met about them. We're going to work on a project to try to locate people working with BTFA. Formally OST to try to

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: Do you guys get your addresses from them?

SUPERINTENDENT ANDREW WERK: Yeah. The ones we currently sent out though. I mean, like I said, we're going to work on a project and make sure that those are the most updated ones that we have. Like I said, we're going to start working with BTFA on getting the most updated ones because we had a lot of them returned.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: Is that like with the IIM accounts lists that they put out or whatever. If you could put something out like that.

SUPERINTENDENT ANDREW WERK: Ok. I'll notify you folks also, like you mentioned. I just want to mention that. We did get some that came back approved and some not. Like I explained, there's a process for that. A large number of them also because of no address. Address isn't correct. They were returned. I'll be working on that project.

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: I didn't see the allocation notification. What is the proposed period of time for the new permit? 4 years? 5 years?

SUPERINTENDENT ANDREW WERK: It's 4 years. The normal, according to the ordinance and prior history, the normal cycle is 5 years for grazing ordinance cycle. That's been the history here but the market study that we're required to do every 5 years is not on the same date as the current, well the prior, grazing cycle. So, the board passed it for. Well, they proposed it to the council also for 4 years. That will get back in track with our market study that we do. It'll run from 2024 to 2028. Then I presume, in 2028, when we get a new market study, that it'll go back to the 5 years. Self Determination is just working on reporting. I know she'll continue to work with tribal programs with it being the end of the year for their annual reports. I think she said she got a couple of them but I'm sure she'll be following up with them. As far as the AO's office, just mostly been working on carryover. Trying to get a lot of it obligated by the end of the year. We've been making some progress on advertising positions and hiring. We haven't brought anybody on board yet but we made some selections. When we do bring them on board, I'll bring them over to meet the council. Social Services made a selection for a representative. One of the Range Techs, we made a selection. We had the, last month, the other Range Tech and Range Management Specialist was advertised and closed. I'm waiting for a cert from HR for that so we can consider a selection. We'll be re-advertising again for another representative for Social Services and a Social Worker. We did have, I can't remember if I reported this the last time I reported. I know it was in November but I don't think I did. We had one social

worker that we hired but for personal reasons, we were just getting ready to onboard them. For personal reasons, they could not accept the position so we'll be re-advertising that. But we did hire another social worker and just waiting on processing. Doing some onboarding. Mostly for like relocation or recruitment incentives or getting that considered before we bring them onboard. Hopefully that'll be this month for that other social worker. That Deputy Superintendent, I know we've discussed that. I did get that approved. The budget. The hiring forms. So, just working through the workforce planning classification recruitment to get it out to advertisement. So, it's made some progress but it'll still be a little bit before it gets advertised. But I'm happy about that. It's moving along in the process. Currently, right now, what we have on USA jobs is a custodial worker. So, I guess, for the listening public or the council. If you know of anyone that would be interested, please encourage them to apply. Our facilities manager is with recruitment too. So, we're just waiting on that to get advertised also. I think that's it, as far as our vacancies. I think that's it for now, as far as I can see. I didn't have anything else to report. Just want to see if the council has any questions or comments. Councilwoman Gourneau, the questions you had about those supplemental funding requests, I will go back and get back to you.

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: One of the reasons I brought them up is we submitted requests to the BIA for additional funding and there's been no action from BIA. So, I feel like the BIA may be retaliating against us because of the lawsuit.

SUPERINTENDENT ANDREW WERK: Ok. Well, I'll follow up and I can say myself on behalf of the agency, that is not the case. I was kind of making a joke before the meeting that that would be my ticket back to Haze if that was the case. I'll follow up. She talked to me about the buffalo one and the feral horse prior to this meeting. So, I'll go back and check and follow up. I know there's the one, the first buffalo one. Remember, they didn't really send out an RFP. They just sent out a quick request. I know Gene and the Vice-President worked on that one but you remember that one got denied. I didn't agree with the reasoning, the phone call that you got. It was ridiculous. I mean, you'd think it was because it sent directly to Asia or asked for too money. That's ridiculous. I'll follow up Councilwoman Gourneau.

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: Thank you.

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: That's what I was just asking her. Are we supposed to get a formal response if they are not going to fund things for Tribe?

SUPERINTENDENT ANDREW WERK: Yeah.

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: You guys are working on carryover. How much was your carryover?

SUPERINTENDENT ANDREW WERK: What's that?

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: You said you guys were working on carryover. Your admin. What was the amount of your carryover?

SUPERINTENDENT ANDREW WERK: I can get that for you.

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: Ok.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Is that all you got?

SUPERINTENDENT ANDREW WERK: Yes.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Ok. Thank you.

ITEM #3 – BUDGET

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: A resolution of the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council authorizing the modification and or adoption of certain budgets for the expenditure of available funds.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council hereby authorizes the following budgets to be enacted or modified and approves the contemplated expenditures contained in the presented budgets, subject to the listed conditions, restrictions or constraints:

Program Budgets FY 2023

<u>FUND</u>	<u>PROGRAM NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
830A	ARPA/Administration	\$ 695,786.40
830G	ARPA/PHR	\$ 1,353,720.87
830I	ARPA/Economic Impact	\$29,399,183.22
830J	ARPA/Premium Pact	\$ 4,371,619.41
830L	ARPA/Bldg. Infrastructure	\$ 5,844,528.78
830M	ARPA/Incident Command	\$ 43,570.61
830N	ARPA/Security Services	\$ 1,379,010.61
830P	ARPA/Investigative Services	\$ 390,219.73

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE MODIFICATION AND OR ADOPTION OF CERTAIN BUDGETS FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF AVAILABLE FUNDS

Motion made by Melissa Lonebear. Second by Melissa Fisher.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President				X
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			

Silver Little Eagle	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

10 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	0 Abstentions	Motion Carried
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ITEM #4 – ENROLLMENT

AN ORDINANCE OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL APPROVING AND GRANTING THE REQUEST FOR NORTHERN CHEYENNE MEMBERSHIP THROUGH ADOPTION OF TWENTY-FIVE (25) INDIVIDUALS UNDER THE APPROPRIATE SECTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE AMENDED CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Silver Little Eagle.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President				X
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

10 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	0 Abstentions	Motion Carried
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A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL APPROVING AND GRANTING THE REQUEST FOR NORTHERN CHEYENNE MEMBERSHIP THROUGH AUTOMATIC ENROLLMENT OF TWO (2) INDIVIDUALS UNDER THE APPROPRIATE SECTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE AMENDED CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS.

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Torrey Davie.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President				X
Torrey Davie	X			

Donavin Limberhand	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

10 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	0 Abstentions	Motion Carried
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A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL APPROVING AND GRANTING NAME CHANGES FOR EIGHT (8) MEMBERS ON THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE MEMBERSHIP ROLLS.

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Torrey Davie.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President				X
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

10 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	0 Abstentions	Motion Carried
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AN ORDINANCE OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL RELATING TO THE RELINQUISHMENT OF ONE (1) INDIVIDUAL FROM THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE.

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Silver Little Eagle.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President				X
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

10 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	0 Abstentions	Motion Carried
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ITEM #5 – MINUTES

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: I would like to make a motion to approve the minutes for October 16, 2023.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: I'll second. I just wanted to mention one thing. I think we need to get the programs that can match their offers for assistance with the U of M. We need to call Kristina to follow up on that and tap into their resources.

COUNCILWOMAN LITTLE EAGLE: Aren't they free too?

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: We asked about the wage study and there were some other things in the minutes. We need to get a call into her and try to get her down here or whoever we need to speak to on that.

MOTION TO APPROVED MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 16, 2023.

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Melissa Lonebear.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President				X
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

8 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	0 Abstentions	Motion Carried
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ITEM #7 – BUREAU OF TRUST FUNDS ADMINISTRATION

NORMA GOURNEAU: In your packet, you have 2 resolutions that have to do with withdrawing money from the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration operated by the Department of Interior. Formally known as OST. This first one is to withdraw money from JA9154145 Economic Development from the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration and the closure of said account. The Northern Cheyenne Tribe is planning an economic development venture that will provide jobs and revenue to the Tribe in the construction of recreational vehicle parks in each of the five

districts on the reservation; and, Whereas, an operating budget has been prepared that includes the drawdown of said funds to the FY 2024 Land Board Operating budget that includes funding from Account JA9154145 Economic Development in the amount of \$5,629.37, plus accrued interest, earmarked for the preparation of construction drawings to enable the Tribe to develop the recreation vehicle parks. The Tribe has decided to close out the Economic Development Account JA9154145 currently managed by the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration, Department of Interior; now, therefore be it resolved, that the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council hereby authorizes a drawdown from the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration in the amount of \$5,629.37 plus interest accrued, from Trust Account JA9154145 for an economic development project to develop recreational vehicle parks in each of the five districts; and,

Be it further resolved that the Tribe approves and authorizes the complete closure of Account JA9154145 Economic Development, currently administered by the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration, Department of Interior.

PRESIDENT WETHERELT: Norma, do you know what the interest is?

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: We don't know because that changes all the time. That's why she wanted that in there, Lynette, the interest that has accrued from whenever date we have on it.

PRESIDENT WETHERELT: Ok.

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL AUTHORIZING A DRAWDOWN OF FUNDS IN ACCOUNT JA9154145 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM THE BUREAU OF TRUST FUNDS ADMINISTRATION AND THE CLOSURE OF SAID ACCOUNT.

Motion made by Norma Gourneau. Second by Melissa Fisher.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President				X
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

10 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	0 Abstentions	Motion Carried
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COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: The other one has to do with funds that have accrued in the Land Acquisition fund. The FY 2024 Land Operating Budget includes funding from Account

207T000037 Land Acquisition in the amount of \$201,797.87 and the Tribal Council has reviewed and discussed the FY 2024 Land Board operating budget and all the necessary revenue to fund said expenditures. This fund is going to go in to the Land Purchase account. The Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council hereby authorizes a drawdown from the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration in the amount of \$201,797.87, plus interest accrued, from Trust Account 207T000037 to assist in supplementing the Land Board operating budget for FY 2024.

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL AUTHORIZING A DRAWDOWN OF FUNDS IN ACCOUNT 207T000037 LAND ACQUISITION FROM THE BUREAU OF TRUST FUNDS ADMINISTRATION.

Motion made by Norma Gourneau. Second by Eva Foote.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President				X
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

10 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	0 Abstentions	Motion Carried
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COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: For item number 6, I would like to call and executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 10:18 A.M.

OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION: 12:03 P.M.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: I make a motion to add an override for the 638 for the Range Program. That’s my motion.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: I’ll second that motion.

PRESIDENT WETHERELT: The 10 days isn’t even up on that yet. I was just telling her that we were going to talk about it afterwards. It doesn’t

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: On the 29th was the 10th day. Right?

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: It was the 19th.

PRESIDENT WETHERELT: We were just talking about that.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: We had the council meeting on the 19th. 10 days was the 29th.

SECRETARY REDSTAR: Today would be the 10th day.

PRESIDENT WETHERELT: Today would be the 10th day.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Are you just counting working days.

SECRETARY REDSTAR: Is it working days or just a straight 10 days.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: It's working days.

PRESIDENT WETHERELT: There's some Federal holidays in there too where they didn't work.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Yeah. It's working days.

PRESIDENT WETHERELT: And we had our Tribal holidays.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: So, will it be signed?

PRESIDENT WETHERELT: Yeah.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: Ok. Then I'll just strike my motion.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: I'll withdraw my second.

ITEM #6 – N.C. TRIBAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: I would like to make a motion to make an amendment to the Housing Ordinance. Taking the sentence out of the 4th whereas. Striking the last sentence with the autonomous in it. Making the board an advisory board. Bringing the supervision of the Director under the President of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe.

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: And to make the necessary changes.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: To make all necessary amendments to the ordinance.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: And then making the supervision specific to the President so it can't be delegated.

COUNCILMAN DAVIE: I second all of that.

SECRETARY REDSTAR: A motion to make an amendment to the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Housing Authority ordinance; changing it to an advisory board and the director will be under the supervision of the President and make necessary amendments to the ordinance. Is that correct?

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Yeah. Taking autonomous out. On page 1, removing the last sentence and the 4th whereas, taking that last sentence out.

COUNCILMAN DAVIE: The sentence that says the Council hereby confers upon the NCTHA Board of Commissioners complete autonomous authority over the administration of the Tribe's Indian Housing Block Grant and Management of the Tribe's housing program subject to the Tribal Council oversight and responsibilities required by NAHSDA. That sentence.

SECRETARY REDSTAR: Taking that sentence out.

PRESIDENT WETHERELT: I have a question. I just had a thought here. When that position comes under the President, would we be able to utilize our own tribal attorney and not have a separate attorney for the housing.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: We could look into that.

PRESIDENT WETHERELT: I think that's a big thing too right now.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Yeah, because it is Rod that answers all the questions for him and basically. I mean, he's been there the longest. Kind of a historian about it but yeah, he basically answers for him.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: So, that's part of all the kinks that need to be worked out. There's stuff. I think we should probably schedule a meeting with the advisory board and then go from there. Amend the ordinance. Make changes to the organizational chart and whatever else is needed.

COUNCILWOMAN FRIESZ: I'm not quit there yet so I am going to abstain now but just see all the changes that'll be made and that everything can move forward from there.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: Effective immediately.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Yes.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: Amend your motion.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Yes. Effective immediately.

MOTION TO MAKE AN AMENDMENT TO THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL HOUSING AUTHORITY ORDINANCE; CHANGING IT TO AN ADVISORY BOARD AND THE DIRECTOR WILL BE UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE PRESIDENT AND MAKING NECESSARY AMENDMENTS TO THE ORDINANCE.

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Torrey Davie.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz			X	
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President				X
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

9 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	1 Abstentions	Motion Carried
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MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING

Motion made by Melissa Lonebear. Second by Silver Little Eagle.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice-President				X
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

10 votes Yes	0 votes No	0 Abstentions	Motion Carried
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MEETING ADJOURNED @ 12:09 A.M.

PASSED, ADOPTED, AND APPROVED by the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council with 9 votes for passage and adoption, 0 votes against passage and adoption, and 0 abstention on this 20th day of February 2024.

Edina Redstar, Secretary
Northern Cheyenne Tribe