

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

REGULAR SESSION

MINUTES

November 18, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: President Small called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

INVOCATION: Michael Bearcomesout Sr.

ROLL CALL:

	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Melissa Lonebear	X		
Howard Ontiveros	X		
Stefan Raining Bird	X		
Eva Foote		X	
Torrey Davie	X		
Gene Small, President	X		
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President	X		
Theresa Small	X		
Nizhoni Friesz	X		
Donavin Limberhand	X		
Gwen Spottedhorse	X		
Melissa Fisher	X		
Total:	11	1	

Quorum Established

ITEM #1 – SIGNATORIES

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council hereby authorizes the following individuals as check signatures for tribal checking accounts:

- Gene Small, NC President
- Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., NC Vice President
- Edina Redstar, NC Secretary
- Kristi Killsnight, NC Treasurer
- Terrance Limpy, Director of Finance
- Kayla Russell, General Fund Accountant

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL
AUTHORIZING OFFICIAL SIGNATURES FOR THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE
TRIBAL CHECKING ACCOUNTS.**

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Melissa Lonebear.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Howard Ontiveros	X			
Stefan Raining Bird	X			
Eva Foote				X
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President	X			
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Theresa Small	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

10 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	Abstentions	Motion Carried
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ITEM #2 – BTFA ACCOUNTS

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: A resolution of the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council updating the appointment of designated tribal officials authorized to access United States Department of Interior accounts. They will be as follows: President Gene Small, Treasurer Kristi Killnight, Vice President Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Director of Finance Terrance Limpy, Accountant Kayla Russell and the entire Tribal Council. That is my motion.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL UPDATING
THE APPOINTMENT OF DESIGNATED TRIBAL OFFICIALS AUTHORIZED TO
ACCESS UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR ACCOUNTS**

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Torrey Davie.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Howard Ontiveros	X			
Stefan Raining Bird	X			
Eva Foote				X
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President	X			
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Theresa Small	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			

Melissa Fisher	X			
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10 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	Abstentions	Motion Carried	
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ITEM #3 – RE-AFFIRMING TRIBAL SECRETARY

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: A resolution of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe re-affirming Edina Redstar as the secretary of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe. The Tribal Council has re-affirmed Edina Redstar to serve as the Tribal Secretary for President Gene Small's term 2024-2028, or until the Tribal Council replaces her; now therefore be it resolved the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council has found that the individual possesses the ample qualifications necessary to hold this appointed position for the Northern Cheyenne Tribe. That is my motion.

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE RE-AFFIRMING EDINA REDSTAR AS THE SECRETARY OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Melissa Lonebear.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Howard Ontiveros			X	
Stefan Raining Bird	X			
Eva Foote				X
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President	X			
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Theresa Small	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

9 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	1 Abstentions	Motion Carried	
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ITEM #4 – RE-AFFIRMING TRIBAL TREASURER

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: A resolution of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe re-affirming Kristi Harris as the Treasurer of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe. Whereas, the Tribal Council has re-affirmed Kristi Harris to serve as the Tribal Treasurer for President Gene Small's term 2024-2028, or until the Tribal Council replaces her; now therefore be it resolved the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council has found that the individual possesses the ample qualifications necessary to hold this appointed position for the Northern Cheyenne Tribe.

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENE TRIBE RE-AFFIRMING KRISTI HARRIS AS THE TREASURER OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Melissa Lonebear.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Howard Ontiveros	X			
Stefan Raining Bird	X			
Eva Foote				X
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President	X			
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Theresa Small	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

10 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	Abstentions	Motion Carried
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ITEM #5 – PROMULGATING & SEATING DULY ELECTED OFFICIALS

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: I would like to take care of the ordinance promulgating and seating the duly elected officers of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe for the term of 2024 through 2028 as follows:

1. Melissa Fisher, Tribal Council Ashland District Representative
2. Howard Ontiveros, Tribal Council Muddy District Representative
3. Stefan Raining Bird, Tribal Council Busby District Representative
4. Theresa Small, Tribal Council Lane Deer District Representative
5. Gwen Spotted Horse, Tribal Council Birney District Representative
6. Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vic-President
7. Gene Small, President
8. Curtis Elkshoulder Jr., Trial Judge
9. Justin David Roundstone, Trial Judge

AN ORDINANCE OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL PROMULGATING AND SEATING THE DULY ELECTED OFFICERS OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE FOR THE 2024-2028 TERM OF OFFICE

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Melissa Lonebear.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Howard Ontiveros	X			
Stefan Raining Bird	X			
Eva Foote				X

Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President	X			
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Theresa Small	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

10 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	Abstentions	Motion Carried
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COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: I would like to make a motion to recess until Thursday at 9 a.m.

MOTION TO RECESS THE COUNCIL MEETING UNTIL MONDAY AT 9 A.M.

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Melissa Lonebear.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Howard Ontiveros	X			
Stefan Raining Bird	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President				X
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Theresa Small	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

10 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	Abstentions	Motion Carried
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MEETING RECESSED @ 11:41 A.M.

NOVEMBER 19, 2025 – RECONVENE REGULAR SCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: President Small called the meeting to order at 10:18 a.m.

INVOCATION: Hubert Blackwolf

ROLL CALL:

	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Melissa Lonebear	X		
Howard Ontiveros	X		
Stefan Raining Bird	X		

Eva Foote	X		
Torrey Davie	X		
Gene Small, President	X		
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President	X *by phone		
Theresa Small	X		
Nizhoni Friesz	X		
Donavin Limberhand	X		
Gwen Spottedhorse	X		
Melissa Fisher	X		
Total:	12		

Quorum Established

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Discussion on councilmembers calling in for council meetings.

MOTION TO ADD A SECTION / TITLE TO THE LAW AND ORDER CODE TO THE AGENDA

Motion made by Torrey Davie. Second by Melissa Fisher.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Howard Ontiveros	X			
Stefan Raining Bird	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz		X		
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President				X
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Theresa Small	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

9 vote(s) Yes	1 vote(s) No	Abstentions	Motion Carried
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****VICE-PRESIDENT LITTLEMOUTH SR. EXITED THE MEETING @ 10:33 A.M.**

MOTION TO ADD INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL TO THE AGENDA

Motion made by Melissa Lonebear. Second by Melissa Fisher.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Howard Ontiveros	X			

Stefan Raining Bird	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President				X
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Theresa Small	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

10 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	Abstentions	Motion Carried
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MOTION TO ADD APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF JUDGE TO THE AGENDA

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Eva Foote.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Howard Ontiveros	X			
Stefan Raining Bird	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President				X
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Theresa Small	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

10 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	Abstentions	Motion Carried
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MOTION TO ADD BROADBAND RIGHT OF WAYS TO THE AGENDA

Motion made by Nizhoni Friesz. Second by Eva Foote.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear				X
Howard Ontiveros	X			
Stefan Raining Bird	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President				X
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Theresa Small	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

9 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	Abstentions	Motion Carried
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COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: The last meeting, President Wetherelt, brought to our attention that they wanted us to 638 the contract for the boiler but we didn't get all the information that we needed to approve it. I obtained some pictures of the boiler after the explosion in the adult jail. I just wanted to give you guys copy a of the picture of what the boiler looks like now and if there's any way we can bring that back or have a special on it once we receive the financial information from Andy Werk. Maybe have a working session and see what we can do to help resolve this.

COUNCILMAN DAVIE: Who maintains this?

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: The BIA. One of the main questions was if we 638 it, can we maintain it with funding but it's not the maintaining part. It's just to 638 the contracting part so we can get the contract done faster through the Tribe rather than go through the BIA's process.

COUNCILMAN DAVIE: The only reason I ask is because I am looking around the boiler and it looks like they've done a pretty sorry job of maintaining the whole system. I'm looking at all the dust around breaker boxes and the mouse nests on the floor. If we are going to pay for something like that, I hope they maintain it better than that.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: I just wanted to give you the pictures and maybe we can just hang on to them and have a working session with Andy.

PRESIDENT SMALL: Just to give you an update on Andy. He called this morning and he is out for a while. Maybe Debra is in charge today.

MOTION TO TABLE ITEM #7 ON THE AGENDA - DISTRICTS

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Melissa Lonebear.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Howard Ontiveros	X			
Stefan Raining Bird	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President				X
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Theresa Small	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

10 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	Abstentions	Motion Carried
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ITEM #6 – ELDERLY UPDATE

MICHELENE BEARCOMESOUT: My Indian name is Ceremonial Lodge Woman. I am the chairman of the elderly commission. I live in Lane Deer and I speak very little Cheyenne. The reason I am here to give you an update. They did get the refrigerator replaced so they are able to buy milk again. They haven't been the elder's milk because the milk has been spoiling. The refrigerator is fixed now so they are going to order milk. The cost of food has gone up. We have a lot of budgets that the elderly program can use but budgets are stuck in limbo as I'm sure all programs are waiting for budgets to be passed. I, myself, have trouble with budgets. I know excel. I know numbers. I use excel when I do the tabulations for the pow wow. For some reason, this budget that we are using still has some glitches in it. The person who created it is no longer here. Our accountant tells us that we have to go to other people for help with our budgets. I've gone to Aleda. She's helped me. I've gone to Alicia. She's helped me. My budget got kicked back like 5 times from the President and the budget committee. I couldn't get it passed. It finally passed after the new fiscal year started. I had to try to get all my payments in to get them paid before they closed them out. Our budget isn't working for us as program directors. Nobody knows how to use it. The accountants don't know how to use it. It's not a good fit for us. With your budget analyst, you've had 3 or 4 in the last year. Each time there is a new analyst, those budgets got lost so a lot of programs couldn't spend their money. The Elderly Program is the same way. They have money but they can't spend it. You guys are telling us if we do an invoice, we can get a check and we can go get the stuff. We don't have resources to go to Billings and get the stuff. To say this is what we need and this is what it's going to cost. It doesn't work that way. Our bills aren't getting paid on time. We had a credit card. There was a late fee because it didn't get processed through fast enough. Who's going to pay that late fee. Sysco doesn't want to work with the Elderly Program unless they do a payment upfront. It's hard to do that. It's hard to get a payment through the system. We use Microix system now and a lot of people don't know how to use it. We've all gotten training on it but it's not an easy thing for us to do. When the financial management manual was changed, finance people got together and changed it to suit their needs. The program directors, the people that actually need to know that manual were never really given a training on it; how it works, what it does, what we need to do. We were just told, these are the changes and we were given a piece of paper. We need to know what you guys want from our programs. Not only the Elderly Program but all the other programs that serve the elders. We don't have outreach. We don't have communication. We don't have transparency. If we had those things then we could move forward. We could do things for the elders. The elders need support. There are a lot of them that are raising their grandkids and they shouldn't be. Where are those parents. Why aren't they there for their kids. We are all aunts and uncles in here. Are you talking to your nieces and nephews and telling them what is right and wrong? I know some of you are but what about the other ones that don't have aunts and uncles that aren't enforcing the laws that we're supposed to be using. There's a lot of things that need to be changed. We have elders. We need to support them. We need to be there for them. You guys all run on the same thing. I'm here for the elders. I'm here for the youth. I'm going to support them. I'm going to do this. You need to follow through. Go down there. Help serve. Go down there and talk to your elders. What do they need. What do they want. Because, they are struggling. We are losing them faster than we can replace them. We are

losing Cheyenne speakers. Why don't we have programs to bring them out together to help them. I have an uncle who I love dearly but I'm losing him because he's forgetting who he is. That scares me because my aunts and uncles are all getting up there in age and they need to live ok; they need to be safe; they need to be fed; they need to go places and do things. We've never taken the elders anywhere as long as I've on this committee and I've been here over 4 years, about 6 years.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Who is your activities person?

MICHELENE BEARCOMESOUT: Our activities person, I believe is Larry Medicine Bull. We don't have any money to do anything; buy anything. We can't have bingo. We can't buy tickets to take them to games.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: When Kathryn was in there as the activity's person, she would request from the tribal council. The tribal council has like an elderly, we help with elderly funding. We would help with Bingo stuff. We even helped with trips to Thermopolis. They would go to the hot springs but they don't have a van either. They don't have a bus anymore. I've never seen a request come from the complex for any activities to us. That activities person isn't communicating with is if they want to do activities like that.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: Is there a new director yet or is there an acting director?

PRESIDENT SMALL: If I could chime in. She resigned. Just signed her last leave for this week and she's done. I visited with her for a while about what Michelene is talking about. I think the main issue from them is finance. They are not getting their budget passed in a timely manner. My question too Michelene is, is it the director's responsibility? The budget? Because you are the chair of the board, right?

MICHELENE BEARCOMESOUT: Yeah. I am the chair of the board. The director turns the budget in to finance, to the accountant, and then it goes to the budget analyst. Because we've had so many, it's gotten lost or if it goes to the accountant, she will review it and she'll keep it. Sometimes she'll kick it back. Sometimes she won't.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: As far as the budgets go. There are schedules. I asked for a meeting with the finance staff when I first got elected but I was the only one that showed up. Communication is the biggest hinderance here. They don't communicate. A director will submit a budget and the accountant. There should be a checklist for the accountant to respond back. There should be a timeline for the accountant to respond back and say your missing this. Sometimes it's just typographical errors on there. Last week we passed budgets and there was one that got sent back for elderly because it had the wrong year.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Whoever did the budget just copied and paste from the last fiscal year, which was a leap year so there were more hours in that year. They had 2088

or something like that. The hours were wrong so we kicked it back. We went on with our meeting hoping to have her bring it back that same day. She came in and explained it but we found the mistake and so I brought it up to her, she was in the President's office and I gave it to her. I told her there was a mistake and she took it.

PRESIDENT SMALL: There's no communication from the accountants to the program directors or vice versa.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: There's one accountant down there that holds all the vital programs of the Tribe that there needs to be communication with.

PRESIDENT SMALL: I was just visiting with her. That was \$27,000 that we were talking about that got sent back. I think we shouldn't be sending money back. It should be spent. If we got an accountant, I guess, not doing her duty I guess I need to rely on you guys to get that straightened out. The activities, I don't know how that's set up but there's \$35,000 in the activity fund. Something needs to be fixed.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: The other issue with the freezer. The council offered it to elderly to replace that whole thing. The building is under Housing so they just keep doing these repairs and it's done. There's food wasted every time it goes down. They've had issues with all kinds of stuff that cost a lot of money because the food gets wasted. They have to get rid of it. They have to give it out. I mean, it goes to the people but still.

PRESIDENT SMALL: My understanding is that Housing allows them to utilize the complex.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: Just that area.

PRESIDENT SMALL: So, they don't have to pay rent.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: With all that money we put into it, we could have probably bought them a modular home.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: Or, we could have bought a new complex.

PRESIDENT SMALL: I think from here forward we need to help elderly. Should be part of that number one thing here. I think we need to figure out where this road block is. I'm new. I'm not sure where it is.

COUNCILMAN DAVIE: As far as activities, has Larry brought you any plans or any kind of ideas of what he wanted to do as far as activities go?

MICHELENE BEARCOMESOUT: He's only been in there for a couple of months. Like maybe 3 or 4 months. He hasn't been in there as long as the activities person.

COUNCILMAN DAVIE: Who was it before?

MICHELENE BEARCOMESOUT: I know one time it was Michelle Sandcrane and then after her it was Kathryn. Kathryn is back as Administrator. Her job was different. No, it was Denny. He was very active with the elders.

COUNCILMAN DAVIE: Prior to Larry was there a lot of ideas coming your way, the boards way, as far as activities for the elders?

COUNCILWOMAN SPOTTED HORSE: The elderly expressed that they wanted to do a class on shawls and guard dance materials. Working on another class.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Also, I just want to relay the message. I don't know if it's been relayed to all the directors. We recently renewed our contract with RJS. RJS is a grant writer. We have a contract with them through the Tribe. All the directors need to utilize them. They are bringing in a lot of money for other tribes. Directors need to know that they have access to that grant writer. They could possibly get a new bus. If the director works with RJS, there are probably a lot of resources and opportunities out there but the director needs to reach out for those. We approved the budget but she just needed to change those hours and bring it back. That budget has been passed.

COUNCILMAN LIMBERHAND: I have a recommendation. I would get all 3 parties together and get the communication line opened back up. Give housing a deadline to put a whole new freezer put back in there because that's going to solve the problem.

COUNCILMAN DAVIE: That's something we've been working on for a year. Gwen actually went down to her district and got the freezer from the hall and took it down to the complex. That's what they've been using. This is one of those things we've been dealing with with the director of housing. Repairs were supposed to be done. They could have had completely new freezer in there.

COUNCILWOMAN FOOTE: Also, at Housing, security cameras are really needed down there too.

MICHELENE BEARCOMESOUT: In closing I just want to say welcome to all the new people that are elected. I hope the old people embrace you guys and you guys learn a lot from each other and that you guys work together as Cheyenne people. We are no longer the fighting Cheyenne unless we're fighting for more money or fighting for our peace and our welfare for our people. I want to say thank you guys and welcome to the council and I hope you guys have a good term.

COUNCILWOMAN SMALL: I just wanted to add that I did go down and sit with them one day. They asked that in order to keep the language going, they be placed in different areas like the headstart and tribal building. Just to be social or just invite them back in.

PRESIDENT SMALL: It's a budget issue. I guess I got some work to do. I'm just stepping into this new. I just got the resignation today so it was new to me what was going on. She gave me her side of the story. She is saying it's with the accountant back there.

How do we move forward with that? We don't have no control over the accountants. You guys do. How do we move forward on something like that?

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: My recommendation Gene is to have, like Donavin said, everyone needs to have open lines of communication. I asked that question when the finance staff, when we had the meeting with them, how many of your directors actually know how to do a budget. There wasn't very many. I think that would be helpful so they understand. It would be a lot smoother for all of us. We are the budget committee but we aren't the designee for that specific budget. They need to understand what they are doing.

PRESIDENT SMALL: She said that she was doing the budget and she's not even the director.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: It is easier. We do have Microix now. Easier for the director and program to tract when it's not moving. They should maybe get a meeting with finance. The directors should be meeting with their accountants.

COUNCILMAN LIMBERHAND: I think that goes with every program. The communication is not there with every program. That's going to be the same situation in every program. I think you need to pull them all together.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: I've been saying this for awhile too. When we have our budget meetings, it should be like a hearing. We're there, the director is there, a person from finance is there. Everybody is going to be in the same room. So, when they're presenting a budget and we have questions, they're going to answer our questions right there. If there's a mistake and we see a mistake, they're going to fix that mistake right there. Once everything is all ironed out in the hearing, we can go ahead and approve that right there. Both sides would be heard. The mistakes will be fixed. The justification will be there. I think that would make it so much easier for the accountant, the director and the budget finance to approve things.

COUNCILMAN DAVIE: I met the president of the Oglala Sioux Tribe. I became his friend on Facebook. Everyday something from Frank Starr comes up on my page. When they have a budget and finance meeting, it's like this. There's an agenda. I don't know if they do it on a livestream but for transparency reasons, they do it all right there. He'll put it all on Facebook, his office, the OST President office. It'll have the agenda, all the motions. There would be that transparency that everybody is yearning for. There would be the checks and balances. Everybody would know what is going on. Plus, you'll have your program directors that are bringing the budget revisions and bring the budget in. They can explain everything. If there's a mistake, we can explain it to them. Just like she said, that's a good idea.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: I would recommend too President Small that your presence at the budget meetings would be beneficial as well. That will also let you see where the issues are.

PRESIDENT SMALL: That way I have the full story and not just bits and pieces.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: We have to programs that have their own budget analysts. We have transportation and tribal health. Then we have Cheyenne Mitchell, who is here to present. I think it would be helpful for all of us to just schedule a day and time.

ITEM #8 – BUDGETS

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

Program Budgets FY 2025

<u>FUND</u>	<u>PROGRAM NAME</u>		<u>AMOUNT</u>
455	NC HEADSTART	\$	1,795,079.00
840F	BIA-ARPA	\$	361,613.26
337-999	LIHEAP	\$	444,068.00
337-A	LIEHEAP	\$	51,523.20
355 NEW	NATIVE EMPLOYMENT WORKS	\$	58,456.00
502	TRIBAL FORESTRY	\$	656,437.74
297 B& C	HEADSTART/TRIBAL PART B & C	\$	214,500.00
794	JOHNSON O'MALLEY	\$	94,139.00
814	JOB PLACEMENT AND TRAINING	\$	142,110.00
323-999	LIHEAP	\$	495,648.00
840	TRIBAL SERVICES	\$	375,850.94
146	ELDERLY	\$	38,477.00

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE MODIFICATION AND OR ADOPTION OF CERTAIN BUDGETS FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF AVAILABLE FUNDS. FUNDS 455-146

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Nizhoni Friesz.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Howard Ontiveros	X			
Stefan Raining Bird	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President				X
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Theresa Small	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

10 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	Abstentions	Motion Carried
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CHEYENNE MITCHELL: A resolution of the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council authorizing the modification and or adoption of certain budgets for the expenditure of available funds.

Program Budgets FY 2024

<u>FUND</u>	<u>PROGRAM NAME</u>		<u>AMOUNT</u>
818	ICWA	\$	99,641.00

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL
AUTHORIZING THE MODIFICATION AND OR ADOPTION OF CERTAIN
BUDGETS FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF AVAILABLE FUNDS. FUNDS 818 FOR FY
24.**

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Melissa Lonebear.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Howard Ontiveros	X			
Stefan Raining Bird	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President				X
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Theresa Small	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

10 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	Abstentions	Motion Carried
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CHEYENNE MITCHELL: A resolution of the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council authorizing the modification and or adoption of certain budgets for the expenditure of available funds.

Program Budgets FY 2025

<u>FUND</u>	<u>PROGRAM NAME</u>		<u>AMOUNT</u>
124	NC COURT	\$	410,897.47
108	LAND BOARD	\$	500,000.00

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL
AUTHORIZING THE MODIFICATION AND OR ADOPTION OF CERTAIN
BUDGETS FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF AVAILABLE FUNDS. FUNDS 124-108**

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Eva Foote.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
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Melissa Lonebear	X			
Howard Ontiveros	X			
Stefan Raining Bird	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President				X
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Theresa Small	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

10 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	Abstentions	Motion Carried
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CHEYENNE MITCHELL: 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 2025

<u>FUND</u>	<u>PROGRAM NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
630	HERD DEVELOPMENT	\$ 74,570.00

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL
AUTHORIZING THE MODIFICATION AND OR ADOPTION OF CERTAIN
BUDGETS FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF AVAILABLE FUNDS. FUND 630**

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Eva Foote.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Howard Ontiveros	X			
Stefan Raining Bird	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President				X
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Theresa Small	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

10 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	Abstentions	Motion Carried
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ITEM #9 – MINUTES – EDINA REDSTAR

MOTION TO PASS MINUTES FROM AUGUST 19, 2024 REGULAR SESSION COUNCIL MEETING.

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Melissa Lonebear.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Howard Ontiveros	X			
Stefan Raining Bird	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President				X
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Theresa Small	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

10 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	Abstentions	Motion Carried
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ITEM #10 – SIGN LANGUAGE – HUBERT BLACKWOLF

ITEM #11 – RED MEDICINE LLC – ELECTION RESULTS – ALISSA SNOW

ITEM #12 – CENTRAL FINANCE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART – KRISTI KILLSNIGHT

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: It's not really redoing the chart. What it is doing is putting another clerk under the General Fund accountant. Currently there is one. She is asking for another one.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: It's functioning right now with two. One works on checks and one works on travel reconciliation stuff.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: Just adding one position. It was already included in our indirect cost and general fund budget. That's my motion.

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL AUTHORIZING A REVISION OF ORGANIZATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS OF PERSONNEL WITHIN CENTRAL FINANCE.

Motion made by Melissa Lonebear. Second by Gwen Spottedhorse.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Howard Ontiveros	X			
Stefan Raining Bird	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President				X
Torrey Davie				X
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Theresa Small	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

9 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	Abstentions	Motion Carried
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ITEM #13 – BOARD LIAISONS – MELISSA FISHER

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: I would like to table this until we can discuss this as a group.

MOTION TO TABLE ITEM #13 – AUTHORIZE APPOINTMENT OF TRIBAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE.

Motion made by Melissa Lonebear. Second by Eva Foote.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Howard Ontiveros	X			
Stefan Raining Bird	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President				X
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Theresa Small	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

10 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	Abstentions	Motion Carried
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ITEM #14 – 2025 HOLIDAY LIST – MELISSA FISHER

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: Same thing. I would like to table this until we can discuss this. We need your input on this too from Administration.

MOTION TO TABLE APPROVING OF THE HOLIDAY LIST

Motion made by Melissa Lonebear. Second by Nizhoni Friesz.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Howard Ontiveros	X			
Stefan Raining Bird	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President				X
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Theresa Small	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

10 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	Abstentions	Motion Carried
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ITEM #15 – CANNABIS

COUNCILMAN DAVIE: My motion would be to add this to the existing Law and Order revisions that we are going to take out to the districts. It is Title 24 from the Northern Arapaho Tribe which pertains to cannabis. It's really an empowering document. As many of you know everywhere around us, cannabis is legal for recreational use. There are counties to the east of us where there are no adult use sale counties. It's still legal to use in those counties but as far as anything here our law-and-order code anything under the threshold for illegal amount is still considered a class C offense and there is a \$45 fine that's imposed by the Courts. At this point it's just a way for the Court to make money. Every where around us, it's legal. A couple things in here that people might get misconstrued. No way, shape or form does this condone black ---- sales nor does it condone amounts higher than what would be considered a felony or in our tribal code, a class A offense. There's still a legal amount that states in here that is 2 ounces. That's what I would like to recommend. Any black-market sales are strictly prohibited and will be punishable by law. That's also in the back. There are also parts in here that you can't be discriminated against when you are trying to gain employment with the tribe because of previous positive tests. One of the things that we are trying to do is that I talked about earlier was getting it in the policy manual. Getting the things that we passed put in policy, protecting our employees. Special stipulations as well as for drivers and people that are around kids or in the clinic, our tribal health stuff. We need to get with the times here. We are the only reservation in the State of Montana that's still charging their people for this. That's still putting it on their criminal record. It's unfair. There's plenty of studies out there. There's studies on the State as far as crime levels. Other states as far as how crime levels have dropped. There's a lot of states

that are considering it to be legal for recreational use. We are falling further and further behind. One of the main things we need to do first up is change our law-and-order code concerning cannabis so that we can move forward with business opportunities with potential medicinal uses for people. We need to get with the times. It's ridiculous that it's taken this long. I would appreciate your guys' consideration to put this in with the rest of the law-and-order code revision so that we can get moving. This was one of my main initiatives coming in and we hit a wall because we have the director of the NCIS program telling tribal council that if we open the doors on a dispensary and comes back onto the res with something that they purchased that they'll be arrested and searched because it's not in the code. Well, here it is, the law-and-order code revision that we need so that can't happen. I don't think we should be wasting funding for NCIS on something that is legal all around us. That's mismanagement. We got meth. We got pills. Now fentanyl. Now there's new powder form fentanyl. We should be using our resources trying to combat that instead of something that everyone around us is using as medicine. That's my motion to add this to the current law and order revisions that we're taking out to the districts for their public comment. Appreciate a yes on this one.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: One of the last things we did was to extend the comment period for the law-and-order code but someone needs to focus on it. I have personally sent out packets of the information just from posting that it's available and people ask me for it. I still haven't gotten all the people on my list so someone needs to focus on getting that out. Getting them mailed out. I probably did like 25 of them maybe but there are still a lot that haven't gotten a copy of it.

PRESIDENT SMALL: What is the plan with it. Once the comment period is over for the people then is it to take it to the district.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: So, there wasn't a plan. I think it was being forced upon us to try to get it done. We had some meetings and presentations from the attorney's that did some work on it but it wasn't thorough enough. I do think that we need to sit down as a group to review the parts that were presented to us and the ones that are still pending.

COUNCILMAN DAVIE: I think this is where a lot people don't understand how it's supposed to work. Basically, our subcommittee is the district committees. The district chairs should at least be at one council meeting per month. This is something that would be much easier for them to take because they have the public meetings. It would probably draw more people to their meetings.

PRESIDENT SMALL: Where's your cannabis committee? Do you guys have one?

COUNCILMAN DAVIE: We did have a cannabis committee. Because they wanted to go in a different direction. They wanted to do something on the reservation. I'm only one vote in a democracy. They never did come and provide an argument for that. There's still 2 members of the committee that still exist. We did not completely disband them. Corey Spottedelk is one of the main ones trying to get things done. Brandon Limberhand is also there. It was Corey Spottedelk, Brandon Limberhand, Waylon Rogers, Carrie Braine and

Lisa Limpy Just. I'm pretty sure 3 of the 5 resigned during our last cannabis meeting which was a year ago. So, we've just been kind of moving forward. A lot of it was Councilwoman Lonebear and myself trying to get it all figured out, bring it to the public, bring it to the rest of the council. We hit a wall. It wasn't exactly what they wanted to do. There's a combined use license out there right now. The state is trying to put a cap on dispensaries right now which means that nobody is going to open a new dispensary here pretty soon and they'll open it back up for consideration in 2027. There is cap on the dispensaries but that does not pertain to the combined use license that is available to the tribes. The combined use license, you can have one storefront within 100 air miles within the reservation and up to a tier 5 grow op with a regular license. When they made it recreational, they made it to where the only people that could obtain a recreational license was the grandfathered medical provider. So, you had to have your medical license. You can't just go in and say I want to have recreational cannabis license. This is the starting point. This should have been done 10 years ago.

MOTION TO ADD TITLE ----- MARIJUANA/CANNABIS TO THE EXISTING LAW AND ORDER CODE GOING OUT TO THE DISTRICTS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT.

Motion made by Torre Davie. Second by Melissa Fisher.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Howard Ontiveros	X			
Stefan Raining Bird	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz		X		
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President				X
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Theresa Small	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

9 vote(s) Yes	1 vote(s) No	Abstentions	Motion Carried
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ITEM #16 – INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: Donavin is the current representative. With the IEC coming up, President would also attend and be a delegate for vote. Are you ok with being the alternate?

COUNCILMAN LIMBERHAND: Yes.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: Ok. My motion is to authorize the membership designating President Small as the delegate and Donavin as the alternate.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENE TRIBAL COUNCIL
AUTHORIZING MEMBERSHIP TO THE INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL
(IAC), DESIGNATING GENE SMALL, TRIBAL PRESIDENT AS THE OFFICAL
TRIBAL DELEGATE AND DONAVIN LIMBERHAND AS THE ALTERNATE**

Motion made by Melissa Lonebear. Second by Melissa Fisher.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Howard Ontiveros	X			
Stefan Raining Bird	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President				X
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand			X	
Theresa Small	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

9 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	1 Abstention(s)	Motion Carried
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ITEM #17 – CHIEF JUDGE APPOINTMENT

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: I ----- yesterday but I also want to hear your recommendations.

PRESIDENT SMALL: Just based off the results of the test that I'm looking I would like to recommend Curtis. Not only that but with his schooling and his degree. That's a plus too.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: The only thing that I would like to stress is, the courts attitude towards the tribal council is that they are basically a stand-alone. Communication is key for us. They did fee schedule changes without notifying anyone from here in the past. I think the only way that it's going to work, no matter who the judge is, is if we work together.

PRESIDENT SMALL: Is that communication, is that something that's in writing?

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: Professional courtesy.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Professional courtesy and good faith.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: I think that needs to be stressed and they need to be reminded. As far as the current standing of the court. They have their court reviews that are done by the BIA. You should probably request those and see what their recommendations were from them.

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENE TRIBAL COUNCIL APPOINTING CURTIS ELKSHOULDER JR. AS CHIEF TRIAL JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE'S TRIAL COURT

Motion made by Torrey Davie. Second by Donavin Limberhand.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Howard Ontiveros	X			
Stefan Raining Bird	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz		X		
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President				X
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Theresa Small	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse		X		
Melissa Fisher	X			

8 vote(s) Yes	2 votes No	0 Abstention(s)	Motion Carried
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ITEM #18 – BROADBAND – NIZHONI FRIESZ

MOTION TO TABLE ITEM #18 - BROADBAND

Motion made by Nizhoni Friesz. Second by Melissa Lonebear.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Howard Ontiveros	X			
Stefan Raining Bird	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President				X
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Theresa Small	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

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

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Melissa Lonebear.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Howard Ontiveros	X			
Stefan Raining Bird	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice-President				X
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Theresa Small	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

10 votes Yes	0 votes No	0 Abstentions	Motion Carried
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MEETING ADJOURNED @ 11:48 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 1 abstention on this 3rd day of February 2025.



Edina Redstar, Secretary
Northern Cheyenne Tribe