

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

**RESCHEDULED SESSION**

**MINUTES**

January 6, 2021

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Donna Fisher called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

**INVOCATION:** Henry Speelman

**ROLL CALL:**

	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>	<b>EXCUSED</b>
<b>Debra Charette</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Norma Gourneau</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Eva Foote *Teleconference</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Diane Spotted Elk</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Henry Speelman</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Silver Little Eagle</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Lane Spotted Elk</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Gwen Talawyma</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Melissa Fisher</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Philip Beckman</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Serena Wetherelt, Vice President</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Donna Fisher, President</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Total:</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Quorum Established

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No Announcements

**ELDERLY UPDATE**

Henry: There's a rancher who lives outside of Decker, he donated two beef to Cheyenne Tribe, and decided to have the Elderly program have it. He's going to have it processed. I'll get the name of the rancher and thank him for it and glad people are out there trying to do stuff for them. Thank you.

**DISTRICT UPDATE**

Henry Speelman: We've got a representative for Lame Deer district update.

Amanda Speelman: I do have a few things to bring up today on the district. I.H.S. and their distribution of testing and shots. My problem is the inability to get information from them.

A lot of things are shut down now, we want to know when you will be opening things. Can someone answer that?

Donna Fisher: Amanda, there is still an executive order in place until January 20<sup>th</sup>, and we are trying to open back up, we need to make sure our numbers continue to level out. If there is an increase in our COVID numbers to 50, I will do a lock down. I will lock down until we get our numbers back under control. As of now, the Executive Order is still in place until the 20<sup>th</sup> of January.

Amanda Speelman: Okay, excellent. Lame Deer school is looking at opening back up with the option of learning from home. I think that's a really good idea, because I will keep my grandchildren home and teach them.

Lane Spotted Elk: I spoke with Councilwoman Silvereagle and we have a list of your complaints here and we can sit down with you from the Lame Deer district and you can take it up with me.

Amanda: And that would be awesome. We only need a room for an evening meeting where no kids are there. We are willing to work with the neighborhood to make what's possible, possible. But I would really like you to reconsider security. Mainly because, as an older person, that made me feel a lot better. And where funding is going with COVID.

Donna: With the CARES ACT funding, we will have a report out. I don't know the timing with that, but as soon as we get all the money.

Amanda Speelman: Thank you very much.

Henry Speelman: The next one will be Muddy District.

Ryhal Rowland: We distributed toys on December 20<sup>th</sup>, drive-thru style distribution. We also had a Muddy District meeting and passed our budget and bylaws. Due to COVID, we did not do an election, we will do it when COVID is gone so that we can get a fair representation of people who want to run for their position. And we've helped about close to 70 people in the last week. I put out the Muddy District happenings Facebook page, and the budget allocations and how to request money.

Debra Charrette: And I and my daughter distributed backpacks for the food distribution program on Christmas Eve, we did 250 for Muddy District. It was kind of a lot of work, but we got it done.

Donna Fisher: Thank you, Muddy District.

Melissa Fisher: For Ashland District, we selected new officers. Edith Caine is the new District Chair, Vice Chair is Roxanne Braine-Howe, and the Treasurer/Secretary is Ralph Fisher, Sr. They have been helping people in the district with the assistance and they handed out their toys on Christmas Eve, and they did candy bags for the kids in quarantine. That's the update for Ashland.

Gwen Talawyma: Birney's new District Chair is Ernest Littlemouth. And Vice Chair is Kenny Kateline, and September is the Secretary. They started helping the people when we passed the budget. We handed out the toys along with stockings and elderly gift bags on Christmas. Before Christmas. That's it. And I did a Christmas stroll on Christmas Eve, and everyone came out and participated.

Henry Speelman: And Busby?

Philip Beckman: Yeah, I'm not too sure about the new elections, I would have to find that out. I know they did do a toy distribution on the 20<sup>th</sup>, a meal and toy drive-thru distribution. I was able to get toys out, I wanted to do it Christmas Eve, but wasn't aware it was coming in two shipments, so I did a distribution day after Christmas. I want to thank Dean Blackwolf, Jr. for distributing those gifts for me. That's about it.

Henry Speelman: Districts, can you have your representatives give these updates to me or Nizhoni, so we can put it on the web page. With some kind of contact number. Thank you.

Lane Spotted Elk: I request we move the Budget to the end. I'm getting those situated now to present that. I think we should move that to #12.

Serena Wetherelt left the session.

Henry Speelman: I make a motion to move budget to the end.

Philip Beckman: I second.

Motion made by Henry Speelman. Second by Philip Beckman.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
<b>Debra Charette</b>	X			
<b>Norma Gourneau</b>	X			
<b>Eva Foote *Teleconference</b>	X			
<b>Diane Spotted Elk</b>	X			
<b>Henry Speelman</b>	X			
<b>Silver Little Eagle</b>	X			
<b>Lane Spotted Elk</b>	X			
<b>Gwen Talawyma</b>	X			
<b>Melissa Fisher</b>	X			
<b>Philip Beckman</b>	X			
<b>Serena Wetherelt, Vice President</b>				X
<b>10 votes Yes</b>	<b>0 votes No</b>			<b>0 Abstentions</b>
				<b>Motion Carried</b>

Donna Fisher: #5

**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 Lane Spotted Elk. Second by Melissa Fisher.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote *Teleconference	X			
Diane Spotted Elk	X			
Henry Speelman	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Lane Spotted Elk	X			
Gwen Talawyma	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			
Philip Beckman	X			
Serena Wetherelt, Vice President				X

10 votes Yes	0 votes No	0 Abstentions	Motion Carried
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**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL CONCURRING WITH THE NOMINATION AND APPOINTMENT OF ALICE M. WHITEMAN TO BE APPOINTED NORTHERN CHEYENNE COURT CLERK FOR A FOUR (4) YEAR TERM.**

Motion made by Lane Spotted Elk. Second by Norma Gourneau.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote *Teleconference	X			
Diane Spotted Elk	X			
Henry Speelman	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Lane Spotted Elk	X			
Gwen Talawyma	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			
Philip Beckman	X			
Serena Wetherelt, Vice President				X

10 votes Yes	0 votes No	0 Abstentions	Motion Carried
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Donna Fisher: Item #7.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL APPROVING THE SOLE SOURCING OF A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT BETWEEN THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE AND LITTLE COYOTE CONSTRUCTION, FOR THE ASHLAND AND BIRNEY DISTRICT COMMUNITY HALLS.**

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Gwen Talawyma.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
<b>Debra Charette</b>	X			
<b>Norma Gourneau</b>	X			
<b>Eva Foote *Teleconference</b>	X			
<b>Diane Spotted Elk</b>	X			
<b>Henry Speelman</b>	X			
<b>Silver Little Eagle</b>	X			
<b>Lane Spotted Elk</b>	X			
<b>Gwen Talawyma</b>	X			
<b>Melissa Fisher</b>	X			
<b>Philip Beckman</b>	X			
<b>Serena Wetherelt, Vice President</b>				X

<b>10 votes Yes</b>	<b>0 votes No</b>	<b>0 Abstentions</b>	<b>Motion Carried</b>
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Donna Fisher: The organization of Council Board, #8.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL APPOINTING TRIBAL COUNCIL COMMITTEES.**

Henry Speelman: The Charity committee, how is that working out?

Diane Spotted Elk: Everybody, the whole council is.

Debra Charrette: Are you going to change it to the whole council? Instead of just the 5? Because there is no Chairman, either.

Melissa Fisher: I think if we're going to go all council, we need to establish officers. Because it gets to the point where everybody is signing off on things, and we don't know where it goes.

Lane Spotted Elk: Yeah, some sort of order there.

Diane Spotted Elk: I agree.

Melissa Fisher: I think by setting it to be all council, then we can have a charity meeting and elect officers that way.

Donna Fisher: It looks like all districts are represented.

Melissa Fisher: So with the reorganization, is there going to be a liaison or it's going to be under the Tribal Council?

Donna Fisher: Part of it is going to be under the Tribal Council.

Lane Spotted Elk: I would recommend that the Tribal Council go into Executive Session to discuss this part.

**2:16 PM Council called into Executive Session. Tribal Secretary Nizhoni Robinson and Media Specialist Ryhal Rowland left the session.**

**2:37 Executive Session ended. Nizhoni Robinson and Ryhal Rowland entered back in.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote *Teleconference	X			
Diane Spotted Elk	X			
Henry Speelman	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Lane Spotted Elk	X			
Gwen Talawyma	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			
Philip Beckman	X			
Serena Wetherelt, Vice President				X

<b>10 votes Yes</b>	<b>0 votes No</b>	<b>0 Abstentions</b>	<b>Motion Carried</b>
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Donna Fisher: Item #9, Summer Youth Tribal Government Internship, Silver Little Eagle.

Silver Little Eagle: So, this is just a sample job advertisement for a potential Tribal Government Youth Internship. This can be brought up in a working session. I just put it on the agenda today to introduce it, for discussion purposes. There will be 5 interns, salaried \$10.00/hour for 60 hours per 2 weeks. The total cost would be \$12,000 and I think this is something we can easily find from the general fund or funding from CDKC or the local schools. Especially for dual credit purposes. I also think that in the past, summer youth jobs have consisted of mainly clean up jobs, and I think while that is important, I also think it's important to address that the youth need empowerment this summer and even now. So, I will get this together by next council meeting.

Donna Fisher: You can bring it to the working session.

Silver Little Eagle: Yes.

Donna Fisher: And then I can see if there's any surplus at the bureau.

Silver Little Eagle: Yeah.

Lane Spotted Elk: I have a comment for Councilwoman Little Eagle, I recommend you visiting with Rhea at the WIA program. The Workforce Investment Act, I believe it's called. They are always looking to fund youth positions and I believe this might fit within their scope. So her office is across the street, and perhaps something they would be interested in funding.

Donna Fisher: Item #10.

Gwen Talawyma: Levi Big Eagle, is wanting to help the tribe with some headstones that he makes. He wanted to see if he could find a way to start off with 10 headstones for families that have lost loved ones, maybe as a form of comfort for our losses. I just want to bring that up to see if there's a way that we could work with him.

Donna Fisher: He sent me a proposal and I can bring it up at the working session, and we can go over his proposal and make a decision.

Gwen Talawyma: Okay, thank you.

Donna Fisher: That will just be no action right now, we will take it to the working session. Item #11, Ryhal Rowland.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL SUPPORT A REDUCTION IN THE PRICE OF TRIBAL GRAZING (AUM) RATE.**

Ryhal Rowland: It is currently \$17.50, which was raised in December 2018, but without the proper management of feral horses, noxious weeds, fencing, water development, it's cost the producers a lot of money and hardship. A few producers have sold out because they can't pay the price increase. So during the pandemic, it would be nice to lower the price back down, just for the tribal land, back down to \$12.50.

Debra Charrette: Thank you, and looking at this, I went and pulled the other one we tried to do earlier. And the bureau disapproved it.

Ryhal Rowland: They disapproved it because of the date. They were trying to go back a year, and you can't do reimbursement for allotted land. So, this is only tribal land and the permits were sent out 45 days ago, 45 days prior to February 15<sup>th</sup>. Ron said it automatically sent it out and that once, if this is passed, it's not hard for him to go back and issue a reimbursement for the tribal land.

Debra Charrette: My next question was to make sure we have somebody in there that can make those modifications. The only other thing is that the ordinance reflects improper management of

trust resources and trust funds when they did that. I have no problem doing that, because I know how hard it is for these operators and you can see it every day when you go out. But I want to make sure that it can get passed.

Ryhal Rowland: Yeah, that last one I think was submitted by Merlin and the land committee never got to look at the resolution that was submitted, so you could see that was a problem there. But I spoke to Ron about everything and he said it is doable.

Norma Gourneau: Madame President, I think it's a good idea to think about giving some relief to ranchers and those who are operators. We're going to forego any income for the next four years and while it may help the ranchers, you have to remember, council, you just passed a big budget approving a bunch of budgets for the Land Authority. And then the General Fund also gets money from the resources, for grazing. What I would recommend is that we talk about what kind of assistance do we want to give these ranchers because something used to be done.

Ryhal Rowland: If we lowered the rate, it was only raised two years ago, but if the rate was lowered, producers and ranchers and people that lease said they would have more available income to develop and make the land more useful with the land that everyone gets to use.

Debra Charrette: And we understand that also, but we also need to invest it back into our tribe. That's what our decision is here for, is we have to look out for the best interest of the tribe and that's the tribal land that we have. That's why we're hoping that the biggest thing we own, 95%, 98%, 99%, that we are currently.

Lane Spotted Elk: Does the BIA have any kind of technical assistance they can offer the tribe, as far as an economist?

Donna Fisher: Actually yeah, they have a surplus right now.

Lane Spotted Elk: Yeah, that way we can look at these scenarios to say, these what-if scenarios, and base our decisions off the numbers because I can tell you now from the pandemic, that our general fund dollars—we took a loss. We need to keep that in mind and would like to continue to provide benefits to our membership, but these kinds of decisions it would be good to know how much income we'd be possibly losing out on. Maybe it's not \$12.50, maybe it's a different rate.

Donna Fisher: So let's get the financials for this and bring it to the working session.

Norma Gourneau: I would like to know what the consequences are to the tribal budget. Remember, we just made a big decision and approved budgets for the appraising and the land, and we've already approved those. And that was dependent on resources that we were just going to give away. We need to think about this, but at what consequence for us and what we're responsible for.

Henry Speelman: What's the total acreage the tribe acquired from the last land buy back? We've been asking for two years now, and haven't been able to get a number.



Lane Spotted Elk: I think those reports, the secretary has to submit to Congress; that has that information in there.

Norma Gourneau: It's at the BIA. We just need to ask for it, I've seen it.

Diane Spotted Elk: We've asked for it, and written for it, but I've never received it.

Donna Fisher: Yeah, let's get the financials and let's weigh everything out before we decide. That's how I explained it to the operators for the increase of their allotted, because they had an appraisal and it's only in their permit season it's five years. And in the appraisal, it's \$1/year in the increase. So, they paid \$23.50 for allotted. So that's how I explained it to them. So, we need to get the financials, see what we're gonna do. If there's room for modification, if there's change in the next two years, then we'll make those changes. But, right now, we need to see what we're up against with the finances.

Diane Spotted Elk: Thank you, Norma, for pointing that out.

Donna Fisher: So, we'll take this back to the working session, is that what you want?

Norma Gourneau: I want to make a motion that we table this for further discussion, and if we can bring it back up at the working session, that would be good. That is my motion.

Motion made by Norma Gourneau. Second by Eva Foote.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote *Teleconference	X			
Diane Spotted Elk	X			
Henry Speelman		X		
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Lane Spotted Elk	X			
Gwen Talawyma	X			
Melissa Fisher				X
Philip Beckman	X			
Serena Wetherelt, Vice President				X

8 votes Yes	1 votes No	0 Abstentions	Motion Carried
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**Council had discussion on current CARES ACT budget and its allocations for differing programs.**

**BREAK @ 4:00 P.M.**

**RECONVENE AND CALL TO ORDER A BUDGET-FINANCE MEETING @ 4:05 P.M.**

**BUDGET-FINANCE MEETING ADJOURNED @ 4:10 P.M.**

**COUNCIL MEETING RECONVENED @ 4:11 P.M.**

Donna Fisher: Item #12, Budget.

**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 Lane Spotted Elk. Second by Norma Gourneau.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>Debra Charette</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Norma Gourneau</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Eva Foote *Teleconference</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Diane Spotted Elk</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Henry Speelman</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Silver Little Eagle</b>				<b>X</b>
<b>Lane Spotted Elk</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Gwen Talawyma</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Melissa Fisher</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Philip Beckman</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Serena Wetherelt, Vice President</b>				<b>X</b>

<b>9 votes Yes</b>	<b>0 votes No</b>	<b>0 Abstentions</b>	<b>Motion Carried</b>
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**ADJOURNMENT OF COUNCIL MEETING.**

Motion made by Debra Charette. Second by Philip Beckman.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>Debra Charette</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Norma Gourneau</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Eva Foote *Teleconference</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Diane Spotted Elk</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Henry Speelman</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Silver Little Eagle</b>				<b>X</b>
<b>Lane Spotted Elk</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Gwen Talawyma</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Melissa Fisher</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Philip Beckman</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Serena Wetherelt, Vice President</b>				<b>X</b>

<b>9 votes Yes</b>	<b>0 votes No</b>	<b>0 Abstentions</b>	<b>Motion Carried</b>
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**MEETING ADJOURNED @ 4:14 P.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 abstentions this 6<sup>th</sup> day of January 2021.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nizhoni Robinson".

Nizhoni Robinson, Secretary  
Northern Cheyenne Tribe