

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

**REGULAR SESSION**

**MINUTES  
July 18, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Wetherelt called the meeting to order at 9:53 a.m.

**INVOCATION:** Melissa Fisher

**ROLL CALL:**

	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>	<b>EXCUSED</b>
<b>Lane Spotted Elk</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Debra Charette</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Norma Gourneau</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Eva Foote *On Sick Leave</b>			<b>X</b>
<b>Phillip Beckman *Arrived @ 10:17 a.m.</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Serena Wetherelt, President</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Melissa Fisher</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Diane Spotted Elk</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Gwen Talawyma</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Silver Little Eagle *Arrived @ 10:11 a.m.</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Henry Speelman</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Total:</b>	<b>10</b>		<b>1</b>

Quorum Established

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Henry Speelman: Okay, Madame President, I'd like to move to #3, Indian Health Service.

**DEBBY BENDS & DAMION KILLSBACK ENTERED SESSION @ 9:58 A.M.**

Debby Bends: Well, good morning everyone. Well, today I'm here to introduce the new CEO of the Lame Deer Clinic, Captain Damion Killsback. Most of you know him, if not, all of you. And when I was first the CEO, Damion was the Pharmacist working for us and he left after 7 years, and then he's come full circle and he's back home again. So, I'm just going to turn it over to Damion to talk a little bit about himself, and if you have any questions for him or myself, please ask.

Damion Killsback: Pevawona'ae [continues greetings in Cheyenne]. Good morning, everyone. Good to be here, good to be home. Like Debby said, it's been about 12 years, I left in 2010, and came back. After I left here, I think I was a lieutenant, and now I'm a captain. It's been quite a journey. I got to see Washington D.C. for about 10 of those 12 years, and about 2 years in Atlanta, with different agencies that work with CDC for two years. Headquarters before that, and then went to the Office of the Secretary of Minority Health to be the Senior Advisor for Tribal Affairs. I've done a lot of Tribal consultation work, a lot of policy work at that level. It felt like it was a good time, I've been talking to Debby for the past couple of years, getting the nudge since we left, that I would always come back. I was always asked if I'm back if they saw me in the clinic and I'd say no, I'm only here for a couple weeks. But now, October was my last TDY and I think it was time for me to make good on that commitment to come back to the Northern Cheyenne Nation and the opportunity arose when Debby said she would be retiring and I let my wife know, if that position becomes available amongst other opportunities, this would be my priority to get us back to Montana. Because we have an 8-year-old and a 7-year-old and I have older kids that are doing their thing, they're 26 and 24 years old, and I have these younger ones that I want to be closer to our family and friends back here. So, it's good to be back. We're in Billings right now, so I look forward to working with all of you to provide healthcare for our people, our nation, and all of the other community members of this Northern Cheyenne Nation. If you have any questions, I can take those now or later. Since I'm here in this position permanently, we will have more and more conversations and I look forward to working with Tribal Leadership and of course with Indian Health Leadership to meet the goals and needs of our people.

Diane Spotted Elk: Well, welcome home. I look forward to working with you and seeing all of the good, positive changes you'll be making.

Henry Speelman: Yep, welcome home and we look forward to our working relationship and keep us informed. Debby, when is your last day?

Debby Bends: My last day is the 29<sup>th</sup>. I decided, well the area asked that I stay on for a couple of weeks to kind of orientate Damion and help him get a good start. So, that's what I'll be doing.

Diane Spotted Elk: And thank you for your service.

Debby Bends: Thank you, thank you.

Norma Gourneau: Are you officially on board now, Damion?

Damion Killsback: Yes, I was officially on board July 1. I left Office of the Secretary on June 30<sup>th</sup>, so I'm officially with I.H.S. in my position.

Melissa Fisher: Well, welcome.

Debby Bends: So, a little update on the Deputy CEO Position, which was the administrative officer position, we just converted it to a deputy position. We have a new person starting, they officially started today, but they're in travel status. And will be here tomorrow. I was hoping

they would get here today so I could introduce both the CEO and the Deputy CEO together. So, the next council meeting, she'll be able to come up and be introduced. Her name is Priscetta Red Willow and she comes to us from Fort Yates, she's with the Indian Health Service there. I believe she's originally from Pine Ridge. So, another Plains Indian and I think she'll be a great fit as well. She's got several years of experience as an administrative officer, so she's got a solid background in operations and that's going to be vitally important for Damion as he's been out of the facility level for some years now. I was working really hard to get her in before, but it takes a while to get people in the door with Indian Health Service. We do have a governing body meeting next Monday and it's going to start at 9:00 a.m., so you're welcome to attend that, and Priscetta will be here to attend that. You'll get to meet her there.

Debra Charette: Well, welcome back, Damion. How's Danelle?

Damion Killsback: Yeah, Danelle is actually working at the area office.

Debby Bends: We're working on getting him all of his computer accesses and will be doing that most of the week. Next Monday at the Governing Board, he'll be assuming that. The Area Director is actually the Chairman of the Governing Board, but locally, the CEO will be. Often times they just hand it back to the CEO to facilitate it. So, he'll have his first official duty on the Governing Board next Monday. But unless you have any clinic questions, that's all I had today.

Serena Wetherelt: I have a question. Usually when any of our employees go on emergency leave, which they've been a positive, this last week when our time was going out, a lot of employees were having problems in getting the letters they get through PHNs. They were told that they didn't need one, but they told them they needed them for work and they were having some problems with getting them.

Debby Bends: Well, I believe we had that issue, it became...they're so busy, it's really hard to do that duty, so they were referring them to medical records. When we were getting so many cases, there was no way PHNs could take the time to make those letters, so it was just best to just get something from medical records.

Serena Wetherelt: Oh, okay. So, who do they contact there?

Debby Bends: Lindsey Wertman. Yeah.

Serena Wetherelt: Okay, thank you.

**DEBBY BENDS & DAMION KILLSBACK EXITED SESSION @ 10:09 A.M.**

## **ELDERLY**

Henry Speelman: For Elderly, Silver is not here. Gwen, do you have an update?

Gwen Talawyma: Um, not really. We haven't had a meeting yet.

**BUDGETS**

No updates at this time.

**MINUTES**

**MOTION TO PASS MINUTES FROM THE JULY 5, 2022 RESCHEDULED REGULAR SESSION COUNCIL MEETING**

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Henry Speelman.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Lane Spotted Elk	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote				X
Phillip Beckman *Absent for vote				X
Melissa Fisher	X			
Diane Spotted Elk	X			
Gwen Talawyma	X			
Silver Little Eagle *Absent for vote				X
Henry Speelman	X			

<b>7 votes Yes</b>	<b>0 votes No</b>	<b>0 Abstentions</b>	<b>Motion Carried</b>
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**A RESOLUTION APPOINTING VOTERS COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL ELECTIONS AND RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. DOI-077 (2022)**

Motion made by Debra Charette. Second by Melissa Fisher.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Lane Spotted Elk	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote				X
Phillip Beckman *Absent for vote				X
Melissa Fisher	X			
Diane Spotted Elk	X			
Gwen Talawyma	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Henry Speelman	X			

<b>8 votes Yes</b>	<b>0 votes No</b>	<b>0 Abstentions</b>	<b>Motion Carried</b>
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**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING SCHEDULE FOR 2022 REGULAR PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTIONS**

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Henry Speelman.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Lane Spotted Elk	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote				X
Phillip Beckman *Absent for vote				X
Melissa Fisher	X			
Diane Spotted Elk	X			
Gwen Talawyma	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Henry Speelman	X			

<b>8 votes Yes</b>	<b>0 votes No</b>	<b>0 Abstentions</b>	<b>Motion Carried</b>
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**KRISTI KILLSNIGHT ENTERED SESSION @ 10:16 A.M.**

**PHILLIP BECKMAN ENTERED SESSION @ 10:17 A.M.**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL APPROVING A CONTRACT FOR REDW FOR PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTING COMPTROLLER & AUDIT PREPARATION SERVICES**

Motion made by Norma Gourneau. Second by Henry Speelman.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Lane Spotted Elk	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote				X
Phillip Beckman	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			
Diane Spotted Elk	X			
Gwen Talawyma	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Henry Speelman	X			

<b>9 votes Yes</b>	<b>0 votes No</b>	<b>0 Abstentions</b>	<b>Motion Carried</b>
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**KRISTI KILLSNIGHT EXITED SESSION @ 10:19 A.M.**

**A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH & APPROVE THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE ARPA PREMIUM PAY FOR TRIBAL ENTERPRISES PROGRAM**

Motion made by Lane Spotted Elk. Second by Melissa Fisher.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Lane Spotted Elk	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote				X
Phillip Beckman	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			
Diane Spotted Elk	X			
Gwen Talawyma	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Henry Speelman	X			

<b>9 votes Yes</b>	<b>0 votes No</b>	<b>0 Abstentions</b>	<b>Motion Carried</b>
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**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT FOR GRANT RESEARCH & PROFESSIONAL PROPOSAL WRITING SERVICES WITH RJS & ASSOCIATES, INC.**

Diane Spotted Elk: Good morning, everyone. I have a resolution for RJS. Mr. Jim Swan, I believe his work speaks for itself and how he's assisted other Tribes in getting funding for very important resources to their people.

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

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Lane Spotted Elk	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote				X
Phillip Beckman	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			
Diane Spotted Elk	X			
Gwen Talawyma	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Henry Speelman	X			

<b>9 votes Yes</b>	<b>0 votes No</b>	<b>0 Abstentions</b>	<b>Motion Carried</b>
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**A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE LITIGATION FOR BREACH OF TRUST AGAINST UNITED STATES AND ITS OFFICIALS FOR FAILURE TO FULFILL LEGAL OBLIGATIONS TO PROVIDE LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES**

Norma Gourneau: Madame President, Tribal Councilmembers, you have before you a draft resolution and I'm going to read this whole resolution because I think it's really important in terms of what we're doing and what we've been facing these past few years. So, I'm going to read this whole resolution [reads resolution]. Two years before we came into office, the previous Tribal Council was working and struggling with trying to provide a mechanism to provide law and order on the reservation. And it was disheartening to learn about the efforts that they had undertaken to try and get the BIA to comply with what they were required to do. And then we came into office, and nothing has changed. In fact, I think things have gotten worse. We've tried to do our best to work with them and to listen to them, but I think there comes a time when we have to take the next step, and that's to force the issue. *We need* law enforcement here, *we need* protection, *we need* the United States Government to provide those treaty and trust obligations that they have with this Tribe. So, with that, I make a motion to approve this resolution.

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

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Lane Spotted Elk	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote				X
Phillip Beckman	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			
Diane Spotted Elk	X			
Gwen Talawyma	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Henry Speelman	X			

<b>9 votes Yes</b>	<b>0 votes No</b>	<b>0 Abstentions</b>	<b>Motion Carried</b>
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Norma Gourneau: Thank you.

Henry Speelman: #12 [agenda item] Treasurer. For Treasurer, we only had one letter of interest, but he has declined, so we are going to get with HR and re-advertise the position. Probably put it out for 10 days and Council will meet and look over applications and move forward. Now we'll go to #7, Tribal Health. I believe there's an Executive Session for this, right?

**ENTERED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION @ 10:34 A.M.  
 EXITED EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RESTARTED REGULAR SESSION @ 11:49 A.M.**

Melissa Fisher: I'll make a motion to add the resolution...

Debra Charette: It's already on the agenda.

Melissa Fisher: Oh yeah, it's already on there.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL REMOVING THE EXISTING BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**

Henry Speelman: At the Executive Session, we had a discussion on Tribal Health, it's now the next selection on the agenda. Tribal Council wants to Ad Hoc the Board of Health Board, and reevaluate in 6 months. That's my motion.

Diane Spotted Elk: Oh, she had the resolution.

Henry Speelman: Okay.

[Melissa Fisher reads resolution.]

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Phillip Beckman.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Lane Spotted Elk	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote				X
Phillip Beckman	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			
Diane Spotted Elk	X			
Gwen Talawyma	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Henry Speelman	X			

<b>9 votes Yes</b>	<b>0 votes No</b>	<b>0 Abstentions</b>	<b>Motion Carried</b>
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Lane Spotted Elk: Madame President, colleagues on the Tribal Council, I'd like to present an add-on for the Grazing Board structure and appointment of members to the Grazing Board.

Norma Gourneau: Okay, you're going to do it now?

Debra Charette: Yeah.

Norma Gourneau: Okay, might as well.

Lane Spotted Elk: I guess that's my motion for an add-on.



**MOTION TO ADD ON: A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL APPOINTING A GRAZING BOARD FOR THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE**

Motion made by Lane Spotted Elk. Second by Debra Charette.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>Lane Spotted Elk</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Debra Charette</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Norma Gourneau</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Eva Foote</b>				<b>X</b>
<b>Phillip Beckman</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Melissa Fisher</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Diane Spotted Elk</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Gwen Talawyma</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Silver Little Eagle</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Henry Speelman</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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**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL APPOINTING A GRAZING BOARD FOR THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE**

Lane Spotted Elk: Madame President, colleagues on the Tribal Council, I'd like to make a motion to approve the resolution that establishes the Tribal Council as the Grazing Board.

Motion made by Lane Spotted Elk. Second by Melissa Fisher.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>Lane Spotted Elk</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Debra Charette</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Norma Gourneau</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Eva Foote</b>				<b>X</b>
<b>Phillip Beckman</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Melissa Fisher</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Diane Spotted Elk</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Gwen Talawyma</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Silver Little Eagle</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Henry Speelman</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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Melissa Fisher: The first meeting for grazing will be, when?

Debra Charette: Next week. We'll do it early on.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING**

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Debra Charette.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Lane Spotted Elk	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote				
Phillip Beckman		X		
Melissa Fisher	X			
Diane Spotted Elk	X			
Gwen Talawyma	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Henry Speelman	X			

8 votes Yes	1 vote No	0 Abstentions	Motion Carried
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**MEETING ADJOURNED @ 10:10 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 abstentions this 1<sup>st</sup> day of August 2022.

Nizhoni Friesz, Secretary  
Northern Cheyenne Tribe