

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

SPECIAL SESSION

MINUTES

October 26, 2022

CALL TO ORDER: President Wetherelt called the meeting to order at 2:24 p.m.

INVOCATION: Silver Little Eagle

ROLL CALL:

| | PRESENT | ABSENT | EXCUSED |
|--|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Debra Charette | X | | |
| Norma Gourneau | X | | |
| Eva Foote *Prior appointment | | | X |
| Phillip Beckman *Prior appointment | | | X |
| Serena Wetherelt, President | X | | |
| Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President | X | | |
| Melissa Fisher | X | | |
| Diane Spotted Elk | X | | |
| Silver Little Eagle | X | | |
| Gwen Talawyma | X | | |
| Henry Speelman | X | | |
| Total: | 9 | | 2 |

Quorum Established

BUDGETS

LANE SPOTTED ELK ENTERED SESSION @ 2:24 P.M.

Norma Gourneau: Madame Chair, I need to add something for discussion. It's setting the grazing rate and pasture rates.

MOTION TO ADD ON: A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL SETTING RATES FOR RANGELAND, IRRIGATED CROPLAND, DRY CROPLAND AND SMALL PASTURES FOR THE PERIOD OF 2023 THROUGH 2027

Motion made by Norma Gourneau. Second by Melissa Fisher.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

| | YES | NO | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|-----------------------|------------|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| Debra Charette | X | | | |
| Norma Gourneau | X | | | |

| | | | | |
|--|----------|--|--|----------|
| Eva Foote | | | | X |
| Phillip Beckman | | | | X |
| Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President | X | | | |
| Melissa Fisher | X | | | |
| Diane Spotted Elk | X | | | |
| Silver Little Eagle | X | | | |
| Gwen Talawyma | X | | | |
| Henry Speelman | X | | | |

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 8 votes Yes | 0 votes No | 0 Abstentions | Motion Carried |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|

**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 Debra Charette. Second by Melissa Fisher.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

| | YES | NO | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|--|------------|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| Debra Charette | X | | | |
| Norma Gourneau | X | | | |
| Eva Foote | | | | X |
| Phillip Beckman | | | | X |
| Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President | X | | | |
| Melissa Fisher | X | | | |
| Diane Spotted Elk | X | | | |
| Silver Little Eagle | X | | | |
| Gwen Talawyma | X | | | |
| Henry Speelman | X | | | |

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 8 votes Yes | 0 votes No | 0 Abstentions | Motion Carried |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|

LANE SPOTTED ELK EXITED SESSION @ 2:29 P.M.

WALLACE BEARCHUM ENTERED SESSION @ 2:29 P.M.

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL APPROVING
AND GRANTING THE REQUEST FOR NORTHERN CHEYENNE MEMBERSHIP
THROUGH ADOPTION OF TEN (10) INDIVIDUALS UNDER THE APPROPRIATE
SECTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE AMENDED CONSTITUTION AND
BYLAWS**

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Debra Charette.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

| | YES | NO | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|-----------------------|------------|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| Debra Charette | X | | | |
| Norma Gourneau | X | | | |

| | | | | |
|--|----------|--|--|----------|
| Eva Foote | | | | X |
| Phillip Beckman | | | | X |
| Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President | X | | | |
| Melissa Fisher | X | | | |
| Diane Spotted Elk | X | | | |
| Silver Little Eagle | X | | | |
| Gwen Talawyma | X | | | |
| Henry Speelman | X | | | |

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 8 votes Yes | 0 votes No | 0 Abstentions | Motion Carried |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|

WALLACE BEARCHUM EXITED SESSION @ 2:32 P.M.

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

Debra Charette: This is just a housekeeping one. We did this one in the previous Council meeting, but we had to go back and clarify what can happen on the accounts. They have the same for everybody, and there's only the Treasurer and Staff Accountant that can initiate disbursements and initiate investments.

Motion made by Debra Charette. Second by Silver Little Eagle.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

| | YES | NO | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|--|------------|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| Debra Charette | X | | | |
| Norma Gourneau | X | | | |
| Eva Foote | | | | X |
| Phillip Beckman | | | | X |
| Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President | X | | | |
| Melissa Fisher | X | | | |
| Diane Spotted Elk | X | | | |
| Silver Little Eagle | X | | | |
| Gwen Talawyma | X | | | |
| Henry Speelman | X | | | |

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 8 votes Yes | 0 votes No | 0 Abstentions | Motion Carried |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|

AN ORDINANCE OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL PROMULGATING AND SEATING THE DULY ELECTED PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE FOR THE 2020-2024 TERM OF OFFICE

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

ROLL CALL VOTE:

| | YES | NO | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|--|-----|----|---------|--------|
| Debra Charette | X | | | |
| Norma Gourneau | X | | | |
| Eva Foote | | | | X |
| Phillip Beckman | | | | X |
| Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President | | | X | |
| Melissa Fisher | X | | | |
| Diane Spotted Elk | X | | | |
| Silver Little Eagle | X | | | |
| Gwen Talawyma | X | | | |
| Henry Speelman | | | X | |

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 6 votes Yes | 0 votes No | 2 Abstentions | Motion Carried |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL MODIFYING RESOLUTION DOI – 060 (2021) WHICH AUTHORIZED THE SOLE SOURCING OF A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT BETWEEN THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE AND LITTLE COYOTE CONSTRUCTION, LLC FOR THE ASHLAND AND BIRNEY DISTRICT COMMUNITY HALLS

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Gwen Talawyma.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

| | YES | NO | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|--|-----|----|---------|--------|
| Debra Charette | X | | | |
| Norma Gourneau | X | | | |
| Eva Foote | | | | X |
| Phillip Beckman | | | | X |
| Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President | X | | | |
| Melissa Fisher | X | | | |
| Diane Spotted Elk | X | | | |
| Silver Little Eagle | X | | | |
| Gwen Talawyma | X | | | |
| Henry Speelman | X | | | |

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 8 votes Yes | 0 votes No | 0 Abstentions | Motion Carried |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL PRIORITIZING AND ALLOCATING REMAINING AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS FOR IDENTIFIED TRIBAL INITIATIVES

Melissa Fisher: I handed out the ARPA Priority List that we went over and set with the ARPA money during the working session we had. So, I'd like to approve that priority list so we can get some of those other projects moving and we have a priority list set and that funding can be done with funds from here.

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Debra Charette.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

| | YES | NO | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|--|-----|----|---------|--------|
| Debra Charette | X | | | |
| Norma Gourneau | X | | | |
| Eva Foote | | | | X |
| Phillip Beckman | | | | X |
| Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President | X | | | |
| Melissa Fisher | X | | | |
| Diane Spotted Elk | X | | | |
| Silver Little Eagle | X | | | |
| Gwen Talawyma | X | | | |
| Henry Speelman | X | | | |

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 8 votes Yes | 0 votes No | 0 Abstentions | Motion Carried |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL SETTING RATES FOR RANGELAND, IRRIGATED CROPLAND, DRY CROPLAND AND SMALL PASTURES FOR THE PERIOD OF 2023 THROUGH 2027

Debra Charette: Okay, so this is for allotted, right?

Norma Gourneau: Yes. So, the allotted amount is based on the market rental rates and we can't go below that for allotted lands. But we can make adjustments for tribal lands. So, just for everyone's information, the current range land is at \$23.00 for allotted lands it's at \$17.00 for tribal lands. There's a \$5.00 difference that we subsidize. It was presented to, actually the Superintendent sent a letter to the President on October 7th and this was shared with the Land Board at the October 12th meeting. Any discussion?

Melissa Fisher: So, what is it for range land?

Norma Gourneau: Range land? It's \$23.00

Debra Charette: It would be \$3.75 more for allotted land. And what is it for irrigated currently?

Norma Gourneau: You know, I don't know what it is right now.

Vice President Littlemouth, Sr.: And Debbie, you said this is just for allotted land? Not tribal land.

Diane Spotted Elk: Yes.

Norma Gourneau: For allotted lands, it would be \$26.75.

Debra Charette: And this is something set by the bureau.

Norma Gourneau: Right now, this is the appraised value. So, historically what the Tribe has done is subsidized the operators and said that for tribal lands, those of you who are operators, we will only charge you what the prior period of allotted lands were, appraised at \$23.00 and the operators were charged \$17.00 for tribal lands. It's up to the council what they want to charge on tribal rates. But for allotted lands, we are pretty much, we have to accept this. We can go higher, but we can't go lower on the allotted rates.

Diane Spotted Elk: I'll second.

Norma Gourneau: The reason that it's an issue now is the study was done, which is never done on time. And the new rates would take effect in 2023, beginning in January. And the BIA right now is working on the permits, and they need to enter all this information so that TAMS can auto generate a bill, and the bills will be due February 15th. You all need to understand what we're doing here.

Henry Speelman: Well, I have a question here. We gave them 5-year contracts, they have 1 more year on their contract, will this bump the rates up?

Norma Gourneau: All we're doing right now is setting the rate.

Henry Speelman: And they have one more year on their contract.

Norma Gourneau: The Council will have to act on this.

Debra Charette: When they bring it back for allocation.

Norma Gourneau: Those allocations have to be brought back to the Council.

Debra Charette: Since this was done on time, but at an awkward time for our permit period.

Diane Spotted Elk: Overlapping, yeah.

Norma Gourneau: So, we have to understand that our resolution is saying that everybody will be charged \$26.75 for range land permit. Unless you want to subsidize. If you do, then right now is the time to discuss that.

Vice President Littlemouth, Sr.: Has all the...

Debra Charette: We're not setting our tribal rate, unless you want us to change our tribal rate.

Norma Gourneau: No, our tribal rate is going to be \$26.75. That's a given.

Debra Charette: For the allotted side. For the allotted side.

Norma Gourneau: Yes, for the allotted side. For the allotted lands, it will be \$26.75. If you want to subsidize the operators for tribal lands, you need to take formal action. And you *can* do that.

Debra Charette: So, that's what I'm asking. That's what she's saying. \$26.75 for allotted land, for what we own tribally, it's \$17 right now. If this, and you're saying with this, if we leave it as it is, we would be charging \$26.75. But if we want to subsidize and do our tribal side at \$17, \$18, whatever, then you want us to put that on here, too?

Norma Gourneau: Yeah, we need to make that decision.

Debra Charette: Okay, allotted at \$26.75. What we own as 1 over 1 for tribal, that's what she's asking. We're sitting at \$17.00.

Norma Gourneau: I guess my recommendation, historically, has been to charge the operators less than what the rate is, the \$26.75. So, for tribal government, it's good to charge them, because then you receive income. But then you also have to look at those who are in that business, that's a lot of money to pay for their range units. So, historically, the tribe has charged them \$5.00 less for tribal lands. So, instead of paying \$26.75, they would be paying \$21.75, if we lowered the tribal rate to \$21.75.

Melissa Fisher: I think that would be good.

Vice President Littlemouth, Sr.: Well have all the operators paid their lease for last year?

Norma Gourneau: Most of them do. Most of them do, but there's always some that don't pay. One, they don't pay on time. And then they just don't pay.

Vice President Littlemouth, Sr.: The landowners, have they been getting paid, too?

Norma Gourneau: Oh, the landowners, they will get paid. The allottees will get paid the \$26.75 and us, on the tribal side, will get \$21.75.

Vice President Littlemouth, Sr.: I just heard there were some landowners that haven't gotten paid yet from last year.

Debra Charette: And it depends on whether it was sold or not.

Norma Gourneau: Yeah, that's the other thing.

Diane Spotted Elk: So, we need an updated map.

Norma Gourneau: Because yeah, we do have...

Debra Charette: Of what we own?

Diane Spotted Elk: Yeah.

Norma Gourneau: The last permit period, most of the grass was sold.

Vice President Littlemouth, Sr.: I recommend we stay at \$17 for tribal land.

Debra Charette: Well, from last time if it was \$23 and we did \$17, that was a \$6.00 difference.

Diane Spotted Elk: This, we can't go below this? On allotted lands.

Debra Charette: Right.

Melissa Fisher: So, take \$5.00 from that \$26.75 and it will be \$21.75.

Norma Gourneau: I hope you understand that this is what's being proposed. We can't go below the market rate that's been set by the Office of Appraisal Services, so that \$26.75 is a given for allotted lands. I would propose \$21.75 rate for tribal lands. That will be my motion.

Debra Charette: Do we have to do anything on the farm pasture?

Norma Gourneau: It's just mostly range.

Debra Charette: Okay.

Norma Gourneau: Because on some of this cropland, they're paying more than this right now. Like, I've seen \$30/acre for a pasture. It just depends on what those individuals want to pay. But we can't accept less than \$26.75.

Vice President Littlemouth, Sr.: I'd like to see an update on all the land.

Diane Spotted Elk: Yeah, we can go higher after we look at a map and with this previous Land Buyback, whatever the tribe owns now. Then we can look at it again.

Norma Gourneau: Yeah, when we spoke to the FTO, the Trust Officer, she's going to provide us what the Tribe earned in grazing revenue from last year for allotted lands and for tribal lands. And then the other thing is tribal original lands and tribal acquired lands, so there's differences there. She's going to provide that information, I asked her that last week. So, hopefully, we have another meeting scheduled, and we want her to make another presentation to everybody so that everyone understands how we generate money through our resources.

Diane Spotted Elk: Yes, that would be good.

Norma Gourneau: So, that will be my motion. \$26.75 for allotted lands and \$21.75 for tribal lands.

Henry Speelman: I'd like to go on record that I agree with the \$26.75 for allotted lands, but not the \$3.00 on tribal lands, so my vote is "no."

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

ROLL CALL VOTE:

| | YES | NO | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|-----------------------|-----|----|---------|--------|
| Debra Charette | X | | | |

| | | | | |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Norma Gourneau | X | | | |
| Eva Foote | | | | X |
| Phillip Beckman | | | | X |
| Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President | | | X | |
| Melissa Fisher | | X | | |
| Diane Spotted Elk | X | | | |
| Silver Little Eagle | X | | | |
| Gwen Talawyma | X | | | |
| Henry Speelman | | X | | |

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 5 votes Yes | 2 votes No | 1 Abstention | Motion Carried |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|

MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Henry Speelman.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

| | YES | NO | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|--|------------|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| Debra Charette | X | | | |
| Norma Gourneau | X | | | |
| Eva Foote | | | | |
| Phillip Beckman | | | | |
| Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President | X | | | |
| Melissa Fisher | X | | | |
| Diane Spotted Elk | X | | | |
| Silver Little Eagle | X | | | |
| Gwen Talawyma | X | | | |
| Henry Speelman | X | | | |

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 8 votes Yes | 0 votes No | 0 Abstentions | Motion Carried |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|

MEETING ADJOURNED @ 2:55 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 on this 7th day of November 2022.



Nizhoni Friesz, Secretary
Northern Cheyenne Tribe

