

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

REGULAR SESSION

MINUTES

July 19, 2023

**Rescheduled from July 17, 2023*

CALL TO ORDER: President Wetherelt called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

INVOCATION: Serena Wetherelt

ROLL CALL:

	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Melissa Lonebear	X		
Debra Charette	X		
Norma Gourneau	X		
Eva Foote		X	<i>TRAVEL</i>
Torrey Davie <i>*entered chambers @ 9:31 a.m.</i>		X	
Serena Wetherelt, President	X		
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President		X	<i>TRAVEL</i>
Silver Little Eagle	X		
Nizhoni Friesz	X		
Donavin Limberhand	X		
Gwen Spottedhorse	X		
Melissa Fisher	X		
Total:			

Quorum Established

ITEM #1 – BUDGETS

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE:

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council desires to make certain expenditures from those funds, and the Budget Finance Committee of the Tribal Council with recommendation by the Administration or Competent Board has considered such budget modification requests, now;

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 FY23

<u>FUND</u>	<u>PROGRAM NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
603A	LIHEAP	\$27,916.40
659	HIP	\$668,384.00
694	NCIS	\$1,447,921.00
318-999	CHILDCARE	\$870,437.30
302-999	CHILDCARE	\$159,521.56
571D	WIOA	\$52,522.80
302A	CHILDCARE	\$25,701.47
573C	WIOA	\$42,254.64
573D	WIOA	\$4,603.24
316-999	CHILDCARE	\$157,434.45
632	TRIBAL ED.	\$426,422.83
603-999	LIHEAP	\$251,247.60
341-999	LIHEAP	\$488,538.70
679	TRIBAL FORESTRY	\$1,236,951.46
341A	LIHEAP	\$56,504.30
656	TRIBAL COURT	\$1,949,578.89
712	EMERGENCY 911	\$512,443.39
840E	ROSEBUD LODGE	\$309,090.00
600	TERO	\$116,877.75
830C	ARPA-FINANCE	\$804,919.23
830Q	ARPA-DEMO/SITWORK	\$322,482.83

That's my motion.

**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 Lonebear.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

8 votes Yes	0 votes No	0 Abstentions	Motion Carried
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COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE:

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council desires to make certain expenditures from those funds, and the Budget Finance Committee of the Tribal Council with recommendation by the Administration has considered such budget modification requests; now

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

Program Budgets FY 2023

<u>FUND</u>	<u>PROGRAM NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
850B	GOVT SERVICES	\$ 2,500,000.00
050	INDIRECT COST POOL	\$ 3,722,405.00

That's my motion.

**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 Lonebear.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

8 votes Yes	0 votes No	0 Abstentions	Motion Carried
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ITEM #2 – ENROLLMENT

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER:

MOTION TO TABLE ENROLLMENT.

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Melissa Lonebear.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

8 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	0 Abstentions	Motion Carried
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ITEM #3 – MINUTES

**MOTION TO PASS MINUTES FROM REGULAR SESSION COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 5, 2023.**

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Lonebear.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

8 votes Yes	0 votes No	0 Abstentions	Motion Carried
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**MOTION TO PASS MINUTES FROM SPECIAL SESSION COUNCIL MEETING ON
JUNE 27, 2023.**

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Melissa Lonebear.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

8 votes Yes	0 votes No	0 Abstentions	Motion Carried
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MOTION TO ADD ANOTHER RESOLUTION FROM NORTHERN CHEYENNE HEAD START PROGRAM.

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Melissa Lonebear.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

8 votes Yes	0 votes No	0 Abstention(s)	Motion Carried
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ITEM #4 – NATIVE AMERICANS GRANTS (ANA) – ROBERTA HARRIS

ROBERTA HARRIS: Whereas, the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council passed Resolution No. DOI-084 (2021) sets the restoration of the Cheyenne language as a priority, creates multiple task forces to create a comprehensive language restoration action plan, and the Tribal Council authorizes the Tribal President’s Office to coordinate the task force formulations, which includes the Language Nests Project as a component of the comprehensive language preservation action plan for the Northern Cheyenne Tribe; and,

Whereas, the Tribal President’s Office has designated Roberta R. Harris as the Principal Investigator (PI) for the Northern Cheyenne Head Start Program to be the lead Tribal agency to implement the Northern Cheyenne Language Nests Project funded by ANA, and now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council reconfirms the Tribal President’s or designee’s authority to coordinate and implement the Northern Cheyenne Language Nests grant;

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL RECONFIRMING ITS AUTHORIZATION OF THE TRIBAL PRESIDENT OR DESIGNEE(S) TO COORDINATE AND IMPLEMENT THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE LANGUAGE NESTS GRANT, AN ADMINISTRATION FOR NATIVE AMERICANS (ANA) GRANT AWARD AND RECOGNIZING THE PRESIDENT’S DESIGNATION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE HEAD START PROGRAM AS THE LEAD TRIBAL AGENCY THAT WILL COORDINATE WITH THE LANGUAGE BASED VOLUNTEERS WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF A LANGUAGE PRESERVATION ACTION PLAN.

Motion made by Melissa Lonebear. Second by Melissa Fisher.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

8 votes Yes	0 votes No	0 Abstention(s)	Motion Carried
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ITEM #5 – HEAD START’S PROGRAM GOVERNANCE POLICY & PROCEDURES – ROBERTA HARRIS

ROBERTA HARRIS: Whereas, the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council, as defined in part 1305 of the Head Start Performance, must establish and maintain a formal structure for program governance that includes a governing body, a policy council at the agency level, and a parent committee. Governing bodies have a legal and fiscal responsibility to administer and oversee the agency’s Head Start and Early Head Start programs. Policy councils are responsible for directing the agency’s Head Start and Early Head Start programs.

Whereas, the Northern Cheyenne Head Start program does have Policy Council Structure Committee By-laws Center Committee By-laws, Policy Council Formation and Composition, Policy Council Objectives, Policy Council Provision of Information, Tribal Council Provision of Information, Policy Council Personnel Policies, Addendum to Northern Cheyenne Personnel Policies, Policy Council Limitations on Membership, Policy Council Alternates, Policy Council Regular Meetings, Policy Council Special Emergency Meeting, Policy Council Voting, Policy Council Subcommittees, Location of Meetings, Policy Council Reimbursement, Policy Council Termination of Membership, Policy Council Resolution, Policy Council By-Laws, and COVID Election Policy in accordance with the Head Start Program Performance Standards, 1301 Program Governance.

Whereas, the Northern Cheyenne Head Start will follow the Northern Cheyenne Head Start Policies and Procedure of the Program Governance with the support of the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council/Administration and Northern Cheyenne Head Start Policy Council.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council hereby approves and adopts the Northern Cheyenne Head Start, Program Governance Procedure

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE HEAD START POLICY COUNCIL’S POLICIES AND THE BY-LAWS FOR THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE HEAD START PROGRAM.

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Melissa Lonebear.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

8 votes Yes	0 votes No	0 Abstentions	Motion Carried
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ITEM #6 – EXPOSURE & TRAUMA OF CHILDREN’S LEARNING PROJECT/MSU – ROBERTA HARRIS.

ROBERTA HARRIS: I would like to have an informational / working session on this.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: We will move item #11 up on the agenda since it is to be presented by Roberta Harris.

ITEM #11 – NORTHERN CHEYENNE HEAD START UNDER ENROLLMENT PLAN

ROBERTA HARRIS: Whereas, the Northern Cheyenne Head Start Program (NCHS) is applying for an enrollment reduction (Sect. 640(g)(3)/ACF-IM-HS-22-09. The Northern Cheyenne Head Start Program is a center-based American Indian/Alaska Native Head Start Program. Operating seven Head Start Centers on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation, the program receives funding to serve 125 children and families annually.

Whereas, the NCHS is reducing its enrollment from 125 to 100 children ages 3 to 5. The contributors to under-enrollment are the COVID-19 pandemic. The Northern Cheyenne Tribe, through Executive Order, the State of Emergency ended on April 24th, 2023. The Northern Cheyenne borders were officially declared open. The Department of Health and Human Services provided all government entities and federally recognized tribal governments the Declaration of Public Health Emergency ended on May 11, 2023. Six factors have contributed to under-enrollment: the COVID-19 pandemic, workforce, competition, and transportation.

Whereas, the Northern Cheyenne Tribe reports that seventy-two Tribal members died due to COVID-19 infection. This has affected the community, families, and children. Families were hesitant to send children to Head Start knowing that the risk of contracting COVID-19 may cause the grandparents or families to contract the virus due to immunocompromise or at risk. Trust was a concern in bringing the Head Start children to school, causing NCHS to fall below 97 percent enrollment and to be unable to achieve full enrollment.

Whereas, the Northern Cheyenne Head Start is funded for 125 slots to reduce 25 slots. Northern Cheyenne Head Start proposes reducing enrollment to 100 with a locally designed option of adding 5 Pregnant Women slots and 5 Family Child Care slots, and 90 center-based slots.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council hereby approves and adopts the Northern Cheyenne Head Start, Program Governance Procedure

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE HEAD START UNDER-ENROLLMENT PLAN.

MOTION TO TABLE.

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Melissa Lonebear.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Debra Charette				X
Norma Gourneau	X			

Eva Foote				X
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President				X
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Silver Little Eagle			X	
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

7 votes Yes	1 vote(s) No	1 Abstention(s)	Motion Not Carried
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MOTION TO TABLE ITEM #7 – FEDERAL & STATE RECOGNITION OF TRIBAL OFF LAND RESERVATION HUNTING RIGHTS; ITEM #8 – ST. LABRE INVESTIGATION FOR UNMARKED GRAVES; ITEM #10 – CARING FOR INDIGENOUS MONTANANS TRAINING-DPHHS ON THE AGENDA.

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Melissa Lonebear.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

9 votes Yes	0 votes No	0 Abstentions	Motion Carried
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ITEM #9 – AMEND 5(97) LEAVE PAYOUT

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR:

ORDINANCE AMENDING 5(97) SYSTEM OF OPERATION REGARDING LEAVE PAYOUT.

Motion made by Melissa Lonebear. Second by Melissa Fisher.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

9 votes Yes	0 votes No	0 Abstentions	Motion Carried
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MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Debra Charette.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

9 votes Yes	0 votes No	0 Abstentions	Motion Carried
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MEETING ADJOURNED @ 11:01 A.M.

PASSED, ADOPTED, AND APPROVED by the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council with 10 votes for passage and adoption, 0 votes against passage and adoption, and 1 abstention on this 8th day of August 2023.

Edina Redstar, Secretary
Northern Cheyenne Tribe