

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

**REGULAR SESSION**

**MINUTES**  
December 5, 2022

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Wetherelt called the meeting to order at 9:46 a.m.

**INVOCATION:** Silver Little Eagle

**ROLL CALL:**

	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>	<b>EXCUSED</b>
<b>Melissa Lonebear</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Debra Charette</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Norma Gourneau *Arrived @ 10:08 am</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Eva Foote</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>Nizhoni Friesz</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Serena Wetherelt, President</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>*Helena</b>
<b>Torrey Davie</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Donavin Limberhand</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Silver Little Eagle</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Gwen Spottedhorse</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Melissa Fisher</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Total:</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	

Quorum Established

**ELDERLY**

No updates at this time.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Councilwoman Charette:** The Grants.gov there the sign for the extension for the Tribal Tourism Grant to extend the date. If you could get on and just sign that extension. There's also something with the reimbursement form. If there's any questions, Colton said to contact him and he will help you with it.

**President Wetherelt:** Requesting for a working session this morning on some of the items on the Agenda. Councilwoman Lonebear stated there needs to be discussion on certain items on the Agenda, however, do not want to do a lot of discussion of the council floor. That way everyone will have a chance to talk or if anyone has any concerns about any of the items.

**Councilwoman Charette:** Would you like to go into Executive Session for a working session?

**President Wetherelt:** Yes. Melissa Fisher is on travel and wanted to get going with a lot of this stuff. Our new council that are on here, we need to discuss. Well, I did discuss some of it with 3 of them about my authority that I have here as far as we talked about the IAC Representative and that resolution was vetoed. I am going to get a post out for interested people that would like to be on that council. That's usually how that works. The recommendations come to my office then my recommendations will come to the council for action on the council floor. Those are the types of things as we go, if there's things that we need to discuss and I need to bring something up. I also told them that there shouldn't be any personnel issues on the floor. Usually all the personnel issues or complaints will come to my office.

**Councilwoman Fisher:** Which items need to have a working session?

**President Wetherelt:** Montana Leaders; 401 Package; the Ad Hoc of Board of Health; Grazing Ordinance; and I think you guys need to do a schedule on the community meetings for cross deputization. If you are going to make it a law, I think a schedule just needs to be made.

**Councilwoman Lonebear:** Because of the lack of communication with the membership right now, that's why we put it on the Agenda so it can be discussed here so they at least have this option to hear what we're or to see that this is being scheduled, I mean that it is out there. In the future, yes, working sessions would be great so we can discuss things and do research.

**Councilwoman Fisher:** With that being said, thank you. Does someone want to make a motion to move items 4, 6, 7 and 8 to a working session?

**A MOTION TO MOVE ITEMS 4, 6, 7, AND 8 ON THE AGENDA TO A WORKING SESSION AFTER THE COUNCIL MEETING.**

Motion made by Debra Charette. Second by Melissa Lonebear

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

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

<b>8 votes Yes</b>	<b>0 votes No</b>	<b>0 Abstentions</b>	<b>Motion Carried</b>
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**A RESOLUTION APPOINTING 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
<b>Melissa Lonebear</b>	X			
<b>Debra Charette</b>	X			
<b>Norma Gourneau</b>				
<b>Eva Foote</b>				
<b>Nizhoni Friesz</b>	X			
<b>Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President</b>				
<b>Torrey Davie</b>	X			
<b>Donavin Limberhand</b>	X			
<b>Silver Little Eagle</b>	X			
<b>Gwen Spottedhorse</b>	X			
<b>Melissa Fisher</b>	X			

<b>8 votes Yes</b>	<b>0 votes No</b>	<b>0 Abstentions</b>	<b>Motion Carried</b>
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**Discussion:**

**Councilwoman Lonebear:** In visiting with the communities, this is one of the biggest concerns here is because of the Executive Orders. We were going to present a Resolution but it wasn't done by resolution to close it do that's what we want. We want the building open. We want services open. The membership is being deprived of accessing all our programs.

**President Wetherelt:** First thing, we had an uptick on our Covid cases that we have. We even had one death so far from Covid.

**Councilwoman Fisher:** I know but it doesn't make sense. Right now, people are traveling all over. Everybody goes everywhere and travel and comes back so I don't see why we can't open it up.

**President Wetherelt:** We do have it open to the Programs. All the people that need to come here to do paperwork with Finance or HR.

**Councilwoman Lonebear:** The thing is, we work for the membership. Every program works for the membership and they are being deprived of accessing their resources. It is a hinderance for people to stand out here.

**President Wetherelt:** If we start letting a lot of people in and if the people here start getting Covid, then what are we going to do? We are letting our guard down.

**Councilwoman Fisher:** They are already getting it then they come to work and say they are sick so they are already bringing it into the building then somebody has to spray. So, no matter what, people are still traveling; people don't wear masks out there and people come. We go out traveling. We need to open it up.

**President Wetherelt:** I am not going to know for sure until January 11<sup>th</sup> because the PEHHS, they are going to determine, whether or not, if they are going to open up completely.

**Councilwoman Lonebear:** We are the only building in the nation. Seriously, we are the only buildings in the nation that don't allow public access.

**President Wetherelt:** Yeah, the BIA doesn't either. I've been asking about that too. They don't even go to their offices. They work from home and I did ask.

**Councilwoman Fisher:** There's not even an essential staff list. Everyone is back to work as normal.

**President Wetherelt:** They don't and they are still not going to. I think we need to have further discussion on that. I will call I.H.S. too because I don't know, I don't go around asking everybody if they are vaccinated. There're people out there that's aren't vaccinated. People that are not vaccinated are the ones who are the most vulnerable. I don't know if the person who passed away was vaccinated or not either. Everything kind of stopped, Covid kind of stopped. I mean it didn't stop but the people that need to get vaccinated didn't go back for their second shot or third booster or second booster or whatever but I just wanna be, I wanna protect us, in here especially because there are lot of us. People freak out. Like in finance, when somebody gets it, we have to close the whole building down. I guess if I am gonna open it up, I want everyone to wear masks.

**Councilman Davie:** I don't think that would be an issue. That's fine.

**President Wetherelt:** That's my job. I need to protect everybody and you know, the whole Tribe. If we have people coming in that are gonna go home to their grandma and give it to them and what if she's not vaccinated. I think about those types of things. People might want to come in here. A lot of people do express that they want to come to the council meetings. If we are going to do this, I want to require or mandate that everyone that comes into our building has a mask on.

**Councilwoman Lonebear:** That will be fine. I'm sure the public would agree to that too.

**President Wetherelt:** If they want to come into our office here, that is one thing that they are still going to have to do.

**Councilman Davie:** That's fair.

**Councilwoman Fisher:** So, they will be open?

**President Wetherelt:** December 15<sup>th</sup> is when our Executive order expires. I will talk to William and he is not here this week, I don't think.

**Councilwoman Fisher:** That change will be in there?

**President Wetherelt:** That change can be made.

**Councilwoman Lonebear:** Ok

**Councilwoman Fisher:** Ok

**Councilman Davie:** So, do we adjust this to where it says the 15<sup>th</sup>?

**Councilwoman Charette:** She will rewrite the Executive Order.

**President Wetherelt:** It'll be a new Executive Order.

**Councilwoman Charette:** The orders come from Admin not from the Legislative side.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL TO RESCIND RESOLUTION NO. DOI-072 (2021) AND RESOLUTION NO. DOI-179 (2021) AND TO ISSUE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL TO HIRE A CONTRACTOR FOR THE FOOD PANTRY BUILDING**

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Torrey Davie.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
<b>Melissa Lonebear</b>	X			
<b>Debra Charette</b>	X			
<b>Norma Gourneau *showed up at 10:08 a.m.</b>			X	
<b>Eva Foote</b>				
<b>Nizhoni Friesz</b>	X			
<b>Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President</b>				
<b>Torrey Davie</b>	X			
<b>Donavin Limberhand</b>	X			
<b>Silver Little Eagle</b>	X			
<b>Gwen Spottedhorse</b>	X			
<b>Melissa Fisher</b>	X			

<b>8 votes Yes</b>	<b>0 votes No</b>	<b>1 Abstentions</b>	<b>Motion Carried</b>
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**Discussion:**

**President Wetherelt:** So, are we going to disregard the resolution passed for Littlecoyote Construction?

**Councilwoman Charette:** We didn't pass one, did we?

**Councilwoman Fisher:** No, we didn't. We didn't pass that one.

**President Wetherelt:** We didn't pass one.

**Councilwoman Fisher:** But they still want it. They still want it bid out. The comptroller talked to us and he wants us to bid it out. We can't move forward, even with a RFP because of the resolution sole sourcing Bearstar so we need to rescind that so we can open up the RFP, bid it out and then follow all the procedures and financials.

**President Wetherelt:** Just one FYI. I just checked into it today. Littlecoyote Construction has not paid any of their TERO so I think we need keep that in mind. I don't know if he's having problems

**Councilwoman Fisher:** The agreement was verbal between him and Dominic and he said by the last payment he would have all the fees paid so he's not even complete with Birney Hall. He hasn't even gotten his last payment yet. So that was the agreement that he had with Dominic.

**President Wetherelt:** I think we can't be taking verbal agreements. I think they all need to be documented and they should be right in there with that contract. When the contract comes to me and look at all those documents and on there it was checked and initialed by our procurement officer that he was all good with TERO. Well, now we are in this jam. Now he's not paying and he hasn't paid yet. So, you know, I will tell the procurement office that she needs to have everything in writing.

**Councilwoman Lonebear:** I don't think we should be discussing his business with this right now. I mean, that's administrative. This here, this is what's been happening. Like, anytime you sole source a contract, there's more opportunity for mistakes and for things to be overlooked. But if we can get things; actually, if the council could sit down and review stuff it would be so much easier and keeps mistakes from happening.

**Councilwoman Charette:** That's the good thing about working sessions is everybody comes together. Everybody that wants to know information on a project that's going on or what's going to hit the floor. If we are all in the same room discussing it because if you go to one and tell them something, you go to next one, you might have forgot something that you told them. You all hear the same thing. You take that with it what you want to hear and what you know and what you do with that information is up to you.

**Councilwoman Lonebear:** Working sessions, or even agenda items. Like if there is a question with a tribal program, we can call them and say "Hey, can you come down here and explain this to us." You know, just so much easier.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL IN THE APPOINTMENT OF TRIBAL COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Melissa Lonebear.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
<b>Melissa Lonebear</b>	X			
<b>Debra Charette</b>	X			
<b>Norma Gourneau</b>	X			
<b>Eva Foote</b>				

<b>Nizhoni Friesz</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President</b>				
<b>Torrey Davie</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Donavin Limberhand</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Silver Little Eagle</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Gwen Spottedhorse</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Melissa Fisher</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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**Discussion:**

**Councilwoman Little Eagle:** I want to be added to Housing; I want to remain on Elderly and I want to be taken off THPO.

**Councilwoman Lonebear:** You want to be taken off which one Silver?

**Councilwoman Little Eagle:** THPO

**Councilwoman Lonebear:** And add you to Housing and which one?

**Councilwoman Little Eagle:** Housing and then I want to remain on Elderly

**President Wetherelt:** What about Tribal Ed?

**Councilwoman Little Eagle:** Yeah, I'm on Tribal Ed and want to stay on there.

**Councilwoman Fisher:** Look at the resolution on the second page. There's NCT. and then there's Transportation. We took the NCT. off because that's the same as transportation. We can still keep the acronym but there were two boards.

**Councilwoman Charette:** DOT is Department of Transportation so it's just Transportation.

**Councilwoman Fisher:** I would like to be a liaison for that one as well.

**President Wetherelt:** For which one?

**Councilwoman Fisher:** For Transportation.

**Councilwoman Lonebear:** So, for any of these, these are just kind of like the spokesperson. I mean, you can go to any meeting. Just so you guys know, you can go to any meeting.

**Councilwoman Gourneau:** And you should.

**Councilwoman Charette:** If you have enough time in the day.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL APPROVING AND ADOPTING BACKGROUND CHECKS AND SELECTION PROCEDURES FOR THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE HEAD START PROGRAM**

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Silver Little Eagle.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

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

<b>9 votes Yes</b>	<b>0 votes No</b>	<b>0 Abstentions</b>	<b>Motion Carried</b>
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**DISCUSSION:**

**Councilwoman Fisher:** At the last meeting, we passed the one for the background checks for Headstart but we had language from the other resolution that they still passed in the resolution. So, I am bringing forth the resolution approving and adopting background checks and selection procedures for the Northern Cheyenne Headstart Program. Where the mistake was, WHEREAS, the Northern Cheyenne Head Start Program will adopt the Head Start Performance Standards, subsection 1302.90 Personnel Policies and the Federal Background Checks for the Northern Cheyenne Head Start Program; THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council hereby approves the Federal Background Checks for the Northern Cheyenne Head Start Program, Policies, and Procedures.

**Councilwoman Charette:** So, it wasn't for the incentives?

**Councilwoman Fisher:** In the resolution for background check it had the "Therefore be it resolved, for the incentive policy. Just need to make that correction.

**Councilwoman Lonebear:** So, it was just a typo?

**Councilwoman Fisher:** A typo, yeah.

**Councilwoman Charette:** Housekeeping on a previous one?

**Councilwoman Fisher:** Yes.

**Councilwoman Charette:** Has anyone looked at the incentive one?



**Councilwoman Fisher:** The incentive one is the packet.

**Councilwoman Charette:** Ok, I don't think I have it. But, did you look at the packet of the incentive program?

**Councilwoman Fisher:** Yeah. It was the stuff that was sent out?

**Councilwoman Charette:** So, that one passed?

**Councilwoman Fisher:** The incentive packet stuff came in the same email so Alicia sent it back.

**Councilwoman Charette:** So, the incentive one wasn't passed.

**Councilwoman Fisher:** It never got approved by the agenda committee.

**Acting Secretary Cano:** There was no resolution.

**Councilwoman Charette:** Ok, so we are only working on the?

**Councilwoman Fisher:** The housekeeping of the previous resolution.

**Councilwoman Charette:** So, this one shouldn't even be the incentive one. It should be just the?

**Councilwoman Fisher:** This one is for the background checks not the incentive one.

**Councilwoman Charette:** Ok, but there is a big packet on the incentive one so if you guys all got to look at it. The only reason I seen that one was I remember it was on that desk and it was just kind of floating around and it never came forward to everybody and I didn't know who brought it so I just left it to.

**Acting Secretary Cano:** I don't know where its at.

**Councilwoman Lonebear:** Is that why Darrell was here at the last meeting?

**Councilwoman Charette:** Yeah. Well, he thought there was two but we told him there was just the one.

**Acting Secretary Cano:** He didn't send that to me. He sent the correction on the background check but he didn't send the incentive one.

**Councilwoman Charette:** There's a big packet that goes with that incentive one. The incentive program, everyone will probably have to review it.

**Councilwoman Friesz:** I have the incentive policy printout.

**Councilwoman Lonebear:** Is it time sensitive? Do we need to?

**Councilwoman Charette:** I don't think so. I think it's something they want to incorporate. Does it say anything about when the budget ends or how long? I don't think I seen the whole thing. All I seen was like a one page. But for the background one, to correct that, that was your motion?

**Councilwoman Fisher:** Yes.

**Councilwoman Charette:** Did you get a second?

**President Wetherelt:** I have a quick question. Did they establish personnel policies and procedures? Cause it says here that they are approved by governing body and policy council.

**Councilwoman Charette:** I think they did. If I remember that.

**President Wetherelt:** I don't remember that.

**Councilwoman Fisher:** Well this resolution already passed.

**Councilwoman Charette:** It passed.

**President Wetherelt:** Oh, ok.

**Councilwoman Fisher:** But it never got approved. The language was about the background checks on the top and the whereas, therefore let it be resolved, it talked about the incentives. The number of votes went in and stuff and it got signed and went to the BIA and Alicia caught it and sent it back. So, this needs to be corrected. It was already approved by council. It just needed the corrections and passed.

**MOTION TO TABLE THE INCENTIVE PROGRAM OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE HEADSTART PROGRAM.**

Motion made by Debra Charette. Second by Melissa Fisher.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

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

<b>Melissa Fisher</b>	<b>X</b>			
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<b>9 votes Yes</b>	<b>0 votes No</b>	<b>0 Abstentions</b>	<b>Motion Carried</b>	
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**MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING**

Motion made by Henry Speelman. Second by Eva Foote.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>Melissa Lonebear</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Debra Charette</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Norma Gourneau</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Eva Foote</b>				
<b>Nizhoni Friesz</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice-President</b>				
<b>Torrey Davie</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Donavin Limberhand</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Silver Little Eagle</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Gwen Talawyma</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Melissa Fisher</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 @ 10:19 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 on this 20<sup>th</sup> day of December 2022.



Alicia Cano, Acting Secretary  
Northern Cheyenne Tribe