

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

**SPECIAL SESSION**

**MINUTES**

September 15, 2021

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Donna Fisher called the meeting to order at 11:36 a.m.

**INVOCATION:** Nizhoni Friesz

**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 *Absent due to family emergency*</b>			<b>X</b>
<b>Phillip Beckman *Teleconference*</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Serena Wetherelt, Vice President</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Donna Fisher, 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 *Absent*</b>			<b>X</b>
<b>Henry Speelman *Absent*</b>			<b>X</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>9</b>		<b>3</b>

Quorum Established

**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>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>Serena Wetherelt, Vice 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</b>				<b>X</b>
<b>Henry Speelman</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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Norma Gourneau: Madame President, the Council had joined the meeting that was held by the Board of Health yesterday, and there was some discussion about the Wellness Center. I'm not sure how long those guys continued to meet, but we had another engagement, so we met again after. We came to the conclusion that based on the need of the Wellness Program, that includes the Diabetes Prevention, which we all know is very important, and then the Podiatry and Fitness Program, that is part of the Wellness Program, we come to the Council to make a recommendation that the new Wellness Center building in Lane Deer, the new one erected and completed, we come to the Council to recommend that the Northern Cheyenne Wellness Center occupy that building for their Program. And for the functions that they provide the community in terms of healing and wellness. So, that's our recommendation. Is there any discussion or questions? If not, I would like to make a motion.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL  
AUTHORIZING THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL HEALTH WELLNESS  
PROGRAM TO OCCUPY THE NEW WELLNESS CENTER FOR THEIR HEALTH  
AND WELLNESS FUNCTIONS**

Motion made by Norma Gourneau. 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>Serena Wetherelt, Vice 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</b>				<b>X</b>
<b>Henry Speelman</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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**PRESENT AT THE SESSION WAS THE WELLNESS PROGRAM STAFF, MENA LIMPY, AND FONDA REDFOX**

Mena Limpy: We are so excited to move into this building, to have the entire building, we were like little kids making plans. We're going to house our fitness center there, we have Cleone Highwalking and Lorne Bighorn, Jr., these are our Fitness Coordinators. They are going to be in the building. There's not enough office space building for all of us, but I'm going to introduce everyone. Dennie StandingWater, he's our Diabetic Medical Technician. Fred Mann and Shayonna Littlesun, both Diabetic Medical Technicians. And Mary Leedom, our Office Manager. So, we will continue to provide services in our building, but we are going to turn that into the fitness center. We already have plans and we're going to do classes. So, we really thank the Council to make this happen and to let us put up our Fitness Center. We've been talking about it for months, and now it's an actual reality and we can move forward. Again, our community was devastated by COVID, and part of the reason was for diabetes. During the 47 that we had in 2020 that passed away, about 35 had diabetes or high blood pressure. So, this is one of the reasons, a big motivator to get our Fitness Center up and going. I really thank you for the opportunity for the building. We have big plans. We're also going to bring over Huey Foote, who's the maintenance right now and he's going to be housed in our building, too. Do you have any questions?

Fonda Redfox: Would you like to talk about their certifications?

Mena Limpy: Yeah, so yesterday we met with the board and they approved raises for these guys. They're hard working and during COVID, they didn't have any supervisor in the program, but they managed to keep the program going. The board just approved their raises yesterday. So, we have three: Fred, Dennie, and Shayonna, they're doing their Certified Clinical Podiatric Assistance. Yesterday, they all finished their theory, so they're working on their clinical with Dr. Conning. So, they're going to be testing in about four weeks. They'll be certified. And Shayonna is a CNA. Dennie, Fred, and Mary are all going to be doing their CNA classes. So, we are going to have CNA's and Certified Podiatric Medical Assistants. Cleone also has a lot of fitness certifications already and she's working on getting more. And Lorne is right behind her. We're all going to be certified. I'm working on my own as a Diabetic Educator, and we're going to have another Registered Nurse come over and things are looking really good compared to how things looked at the beginning of the year. This building just opened all these opportunities up for us, just in the last 24 hours. So, thank you for that.

Fonda Redfox: I'd just like to thank you guys for everything you've done. There's a lot of changes we're making, but I think this one was in the best interest of healthcare, that we moved them into this building. I feel really confident about the move they're making, and the positive changes we'll be making in the community. I know it was kind of a standstill, but we are moving forward. We are hoping and praying that we get a new building by next year, so we can move everyone into one building. Presently, our buildings are filled with mold and not in good shape. So, we're really working fast at a tribal health campus. So, very happy with everything that's going on. We are going to be moving our revenue enhancement along, and so that's how we plan on paying for this building, the lease on it. And it just gives us a goal to look forward to. So, I'm really excited about that. I'll be working with Mena and I'm very excited about getting providers in here. We're trying to work on getting the AFA, trying to get the providers in here, so we can start upping our services. So, if you have any questions or comments or any providers you would

like to see, let me know. I'm really proud of the Diabetes program and all of the certifications they are receiving. They are highly community-oriented. So, thank you guys so much.

Melissa Fisher: So, you guys have the keys and everything for the building? And equipment and everything?

Fonda Redfox: Yes, we have the keys.

Norma Gourneau: I think there's still issues, they still need their telephones, and that's being worked on right now.

Mena Limpy: There's some details, are we meeting at another time to address those?

Melissa Fisher: Yes, and we're looking at landscaping and getting the outside complete. We will work on getting that all completed. Once it's all done, you guys can have a grand opening. Well, we'll continue to communicate with you.

Donna Fisher: Yes, good luck!

**MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING**

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			
Serena Wetherelt, Vice President	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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**MEETING ADJOURNED @ 11:51 A.M.**

**PASSED, ADOPTED, AND APPROVED** by the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council with 8 votes for passage and adoption, 0 votes against passage and adoption, and 0 abstentions this 15<sup>th</sup> day of September 2021.



Nizhoni Friesz, Secretary  
Northern Cheyenne Tribe