

**White Earth Reservation Tribal Council  
Special Meeting  
July 31, 2017 – 9:00 a.m.  
White Earth, MN**

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Vice-Chairman Steven "Punky" Clark called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m., roll call was taken with a quorum present.

**Present:** Steven "Punky" Clark, District I Representative (Vice-Chairman)  
Tara Mason, Secretary/Treasurer  
Eugene "Umsy" Tibbetts, District III Representative

**Absent:** Terrence "Terry" Tibbetts, Chairman  
Kathy Goodwin, District I Representative

**Others Present:** Ken Fox, Executive Director  
Mike Fairbanks, Deputy Director  
Desirae Stalberger, Recorder

**Agenda Approval**

Motion made by Umsy Tibbetts to approve with additions, Seconded by Tara Mason. Motion carried, 2 for, 0 against.

**RTC Meeting Minutes (7/24/17)**

Motion made by Umsy Tibbetts to approve, Seconded by Tara Mason. Motion carried, 2 for, 0 against.

**Calendar Review**

- MN Indian Housing Conference (9/13 – 9/15)
- Tribal Unity Impact Days, WA DC (9/12 – 9/13)

**Financial Update**

Scott Omlid was present to review the statement of expenditures for general government, as well as Tribal Council budgets. There were a couple of line items that were transposed and need to be reviewed and modified. Scott was asked to review budgets for accuracy prior to bringing in for Tribal Council review. Brief discussion was held regarding enterprises implementing GP; Scott and Tracy need to visit with Jess Johnson to get buy in for the software. There have been issues with the accounting being sent to the casino. Tribal Council discussion is needed to implement a plan regarding Ojibwa Building decision. Jessica Johnson will need to provide some recommendations on how to move forward.

***Tara Mason left meeting at 10:11 a.m.***  
***Tara Mason entered meeting at 10:13 a.m.***

The business has not been run efficiently. Accounting needs to be more advanced than quick books software. There was brief discussion regarding the casino making the decision to have one food vendor which provided more cost savings for casino side; discussion needs to be held to have government side programs use the same food vendor. Consensus of Tribal Council was to look at utilizing the same food vendor for all programs; government/Tribal. Scott will follow up with programs. Notification will be made to the programs regarding the potential change. Scott was also asked to provide numbers on food purchase to date.

***Meeting recessed at 10:26 a.m.***  
***Meeting reconvened at 10:38 a.m.***

**White Earth Housing Authority**

Steve Howard was present and provided an update on VASH, Mold Grant ICDBG, employees, work orders, and Naytahwaush. Tara asked how many Tribes have the VASH program; Leech Lake is the only other Tribe. This program has been in effect for last two years; has been a demonstration program.

Brief discussion was held regarding the drawdown portion that is in question; with government shut down that was previously in play there was a consultant that met with WEHA and recommended the drawdown. Steve stated that there were previous discussions held regarding the HUD Letter of Inquiry issues and provided some discussion regarding the issues.

Steve stated that following the housing board meeting all staff were notified of what was decided upon regarding work that is needed to be done. Punky stated that the individual that was discussed went to housing the following day to get information and no one knew what was going on. Punky also stated that there needs to be staff available to do the walk through of the homes needing repairs because there are more issues that need to be addressed; mold is a major issue.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

***Punky Clark left meeting at 11:08 a.m.***

***Punky Clark entered meeting at 11:11 a.m.***

Steve stated that the maintenance positions have been posted for some time; no one is applying. Mike was asked to follow up with the MATS program; could be potential individuals that could be trained and utilized.

Punky stated that the only way to get these homes done is to hire contractors.

### **Natural Resources**

Will Bement was present to provide an overview of the netting season options. Motion made by Umsy Tibbetts to approve same as last year, Option #3, Seconded by Tara Mason. Motion carried, 2 for, 0 against.

Ceremonial Harvest Permit Requests - Deer [REDACTED]

Motion made by Tara Mason to approve requests, Seconded by Umsy Tibbetts. Motion carried, 2 for, 0 against.

### **Other**

TNEC - Mary Otto - Tabled

Bear Problem (Monica Hedstrom) - Tabled

Rice Commission (Monica Hedstrom) - Tabled

Enhanced Tribal Card Program - Joe Plumer, Mike LaRoque, and Jeremy Cossette were present. Mike LaRoque stated that these new cards do not replace the cards that are currently in place; this is only an option to enhance. It was stated that the enrollment department has the system to assist. If the agreement is signed as is homeland security has access to everything, all Tribal records. Joe is recommending to limit to a small subset but don't open all the Tribes records to accomplish the enhanced cards. Jeremy stated the template can be changed if needed. With the enhancements being made is the MOU required for domestic travel, it was stated no it would not be needed. The current security features on Tribal ID's are greater than the State of MN drivers license. question was asked what TSA would accept; Tribal ID vs Enhanced or both. Joe will modify the MOU for subset of individuals who would want the enhanced cards.

Mike is requesting discussion regarding the contempt court orders and enforcement issues. Punky stated that it will be discussed when a full council is present.

### **Opioid Litigation**

Motion made by Tara Mason to join the opioid litigation, Seconded by Umsy Tibbetts. Motion carried, 2 for, 0 against.

### **Ogema Organics - Jodan Rousu**

Jodan Rousu was present to provide an overview of the issues that are taking place with Ogema Organics. Ogema Organics received a grant from First Nations Development, White Earth is the

fiscal agent. A request is being made to look at the relationship between White Earth being the fiscal agent with Ogema Organics, change that was made. Jodan applied for the grant White Earth agreed to be the fiscal sponsor. Tara has not received any information from Zach, it is apparent that the projects would work together. Jodan is 4 months behind on his timeline due to the issues that have taken place. The major setback was requesting the funding for the business supply funding. Tara's recommendation is that this request be brought back to full Tribal Council for review; Jodan will be contacted within two weeks with a decision.

**Adjourn**

Motion made by Tara Mason to adjourn meeting at 12:59 p.m., Seconded by Umsy Tibbetts. Motion carried, 2 for, 0 against.

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Tara Mason, Secretary/Treasurer