

**White Earth Reservation Tribal Council
Special Meeting
November 6, 2017 – 9:00 a.m.
White Earth, MN**

Chairman Terrence "Terry" Tibbetts called the meeting to order at 9:13 a.m., roll call was taken with a quorum present.

Present: Terrence "Terry" Tibbetts, Chairman
Tara Mason, Secretary/Treasurer
Steven "Punky" Clark, District I Representative
Kathy Goodwin, District II Representative
Eugene "Umsy" Tibbetts, District III Representative

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

Agenda Approval

Motion made by Tara Mason to approve, Seconded by Umsy Tibbetts. Motion carried, 4 for, 0 against.

RTC Meeting Minutes (10/30/17)

Motion made by Punky Clark to approve, with changes, Seconded by Umsy Tibbetts. Motion carried, 4 for, 0 against.

Tara requested that JOM, Scholarships, WELSA Fee to Trust be added to legislative agenda; also requested information for the three education bills.

Calendar Review

Other

Wild Rice Donation (Cass Lake Office)

Motion made by Punky Clark to approve 20 lbs of wild rice, Seconded by Kathy Goodwin. Motion carried, 4 for, 0 against. Event date needs to be clarified.

MN Tribal Youth Program (Governor Dayton Letter)

Tara is making a recommendation that the letter be forwarded to Boys & Girls Club; forward letter to Mary Otto for follow up. Umsy suggested the letter be sent to surrounding schools as well.

Letter FBI/OIC [REDACTED]

Punky asked where the letter was at; can the letter be drafted to send. Terry stated it should come from legal. Tara asked where we were at with having Nizhoni as legal; Terry didn't know. Kathy thought she was moving in to admin. Terry stated Joe was to be working with her to move her from where she is.

Driveways

Punky stated that the budget has not been put in yet. Tara asked that Ken follow up with Scott to see where it is at. Budget was approved, all they need is the funding code.

Kathy asked about Jeff Wark utilizing Gordon Construction to move forward with a sliding hill; west of the ranch. Terry asked who the other contractors were; Kathy stated Darco was one. Jeff has also been working on the Naytahwaush community park. Consensus was to move forward. Tara asked if there is a warming house being done.

Terry asked how much was expended on driveways last year and this year; would like to see what was spent as well as man hours. Tara asked if it's been reconciled yet. Question was raised before about the class 5 being crushed with bureau money and it being utilized for specific purposes. Tara stated that the funding was general fund that was paid back into the account. Kathy asked how the driveways for elders should be handled. This is why Terry would like to see a spend down of driveways; what are setbacks for driveways - not for site development. Tara stated that driveway information for the first year was provided to the council, this will be the second year. Jeff should also be asked to provide the updated inventory list as well.

HR Discussion

Kathy received a request from an elder who was working a position but was denied application because of his education - no GED. Kathy wants to request a waiver for our elders, if they are doing the work and are in the current position.

Individuals that are putting in applications not receiving letters that they are denied for interview. Kathy would like to see this being done and in a timely manner.


Umsy stated that HR and TERO should be working together in placing the individuals into the positions after a certain amount of time. Tara stated that the issue is that there is an elder who does not have a GED, there are few members who have also worked their whole life and do not have the education.

Motion made by Kathy Goodwin to approve waiver for GED requirements for elders. Terry stated that shouldn't HR be involved as well. Seconded by Tara Mason. Motion carried, 4 for, 0 against. HR, and Sue Bishop should be notified.

Punky asked about the plastic for elder windows; it was stated that maintenance is working on compiling a list.

Elders

Kathy is asking about more gifts, door prizes, for elder holiday party. Umsy stated he purchased bus passes from his budget for last year; didn't get distributed until spring. Terry requested that this be submitted to the donation committee.


This request was previously sent to Michael Neusser to follow up and work with her. There was an email from Michael that was forwarded to Tribal Council for review.

Meeting recessed at 10:30 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 10:45 a.m.

MOMS/MATS Financial Request

Tara stated she was unaware of the full request, thought it was only for an update. Tara re-sent the previous information that was sent to Tribal Council; Tara will provide the ledger information as requested as well as budget information for MOMS/MATS programs. Terry stated that requests for this information were made in September and October. There was a billing meeting last month to address and identifying billing issues; goals and objectives were set, IT and compliance will be invited to their next meeting due to deficiencies and gaps in billing - Ben is coordinating. Meetings are being held every two weeks. Terry stated that the program has been up and running there should be some reconciliation and updated information in place. There is concern with the new software system as well. The programs should come together to update information.

Veteran's Pow-wow

The receipts and budget information will be put together and will be ready for distribution tomorrow. There is concern that the budget was not approved. Tara stated that the information was provided and budget was approved at gaming side. When casino budget was approved it was in budget. Terry wants to see the budget and all receipts. Kathy asked if all Pow-wow budgets should be reviewed; Tara stated this was all discussed when doing budgets. A meeting should be held with cultural program to review budget information.

SNAP Information

Terry received call from Peterson's office with concern of program and things going on at White Earth. Letter was received turning the program over to the Tribe. Tara stated Peterson's office should submit a letter in writing regarding the concerns, make request official. This is primarily run by merit based system, it has always been in place. USDA programs have historically been run by Tribe.

Micro Loan Program/Proposed Human Services

Discussion was held regarding micro loan program. This program is being housed and processed from finance. Joe Plumer provided suggestion that the program be held at different location. Terry asked if the loans are still being provided, Tara stated yes. Terry stated that we do not want the program here, Tara asked who's we. Kathy stated that Scott didn't see a problem. Terry had concern with his name being on the check's. Punky stated that it is Tara's personal money that is being utilized. Kathy asked for clarification on stopping loans for our people. Terry stated that there are other banks or the credit union that could be utilized. Terry stated that Joe gave her the recommendation to move it out of finance. Punky asked if there was an issue why did the audit not catch it. Tara set up the program because not everyone has credit, there are times where people have emergencies - a lot of different issues it is being utilized for. It was set up internal so that the payments can be made right from the working individuals paycheck. The money will always be there, it will be perpetual, and others will be able to utilize. Tara stated that the micro loan will stop until she can talk with legal. When it was initially set up she wanted members from the community to help in reviewing and approving, but everything happened so fast. Terry stated the Tribal checks are being tied to the loans. Tara requested it be tabled, Terry stated that its being discussed now and Tara stated she will not stop the loans. Tara asked what information is being requested. Terry requested how much money has been distributed, if any has been taken from Tribal funds to balance if any. Tara stated she would stop all micro loans effective immediately.

Motion made by Kathy Goodwin to adjourn meeting at 11:48 a.m., Seconded by Tara Mason.

Tara Mason left meeting at 11:48 a.m.

Motion made by Kathy Goodwin to rescind the adjournment, Seconded by Umsy Tibbetts. Motion carried, 2 for, 1 silent.

Motion made by Punky Clark to adjourn meeting at 11:52 a.m., Seconded by Kathy Goodwin. Motion carried 1 for, 1 against. Chairman broke the tie to not adjourn and finish the business today.

Release of Confidentiality Info/Files (Legal Office/SSC)

Discussion was held regarding personal information and documentation that came from Shooting Star Casino being submitted by [REDACTED]. The information was released. Kathy requested legal be present. A special meeting needs to be held with legal counsel regarding this issue, social media policy and personnel discipline.

Web Meeting Minutes

All meeting minutes are presented at quarterly meetings. Follow up will be made with Tom Bement regarding web minutes.

Adjourn

Motion made by Kathy Goodwin to adjourn meeting at 12:01 p.m., Seconded by Punky Clark.
Motion carried, 3 for, 0 against.

Tara Mason, Secretary/Treasurer