

**White Earth Reservation Tribal Council
Special Meeting
May 8, 2017 – 9:00 a.m.
White Earth, MN**

Chairman Terrence "Terry" Tibbetts called the meeting to order at 9:12 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 with additions, Seconded by Umsy Tibbetts. Motion carried, 4 for, 0 against.

RTC Meeting Minutes (5/1/17)

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

Calendar Review

- MHFA Commissioner Tingerthal Meeting
- MIAC Strategic Planning Session (5/17/17)
- MIAC Board Meeting (5/25/17)

Tabled Business

Star Lake Referendum - Tara is recommending that the ordinance be reviewed and discussed together. The Tribal Council can vote to put the referendum out for vote without MCT. Joe Plumer Lenny Fineday were present.

Meeting recessed at 10:39 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 10:53 a.m.

DOT

Jodi Martinson and Shilo Wall were present; Jodi will be over 8 districts through governorship and position will be in place until 2019. Tori Nill and Shilo Wall will be filling her position.

Proposed projects were briefly discussed, as well as lighting issues. Hwy 113 and Hwy 200 were briefly discussed. Jodi asked what could be done with Hwy 200 and other areas of district 4. TIGER grant was briefly discussed; should be applied for - could be creative with matching requirement and other districts. The Hwy 59 project changes were briefly discussed. Tara stated that the Tribe is always seeking partnerships. Jodi stated that they would like to provide more TERO training; there have been a lot of district engineer/personnel changes and would be beneficial. Tara stated that White Earth would be interested in hosting a conference to address/discuss needs and issues. Jodi is seeking ideas or suggestions and will help out in any way possible. Terry asked about operational dollars for the Tribes transit system; Ed Fairbanks stated that there are funding dollars that are routed through MNDOT. Ed asked if Tribe is direct recipient for federal funding; the Tribe is a recipient. Ed stated the federal administrator out of Chicago Federal Transit office has never visited a reservation; would be beneficial to invite for a visit - Ken will follow up.

Meeting recessed at 12:06 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 12:19 p.m.

Quality Assurance Plan Review

RaeAnn Smith and Landa Moore were present to review the guideline on how they want to proceed with the Quality Assurance Program. The quality assurance goals were reviewed as well as proposed plan. Management responsibilities were reviewed as well as quality assurance mission. Brief discussion was held regarding entities under this policy; Terry stated that he would like to see WEHA under this policy as well - WEHA board will need to be approached. Tara requested a flow chart as to this quality assurance program process. Question was asked if there will be timelines as to the review processes being proposed. Consensus of Tribal Council is to proceed with the Quality Assurance Program plan.

Tabled Business Continued

Star Lake Referendum continued. Tara stated that standards need to be set to hold Tribal Council accountable to hold a referendum; what is threshold. Joe will make the changes as discussed and bring back to Tribal Council for review and approval.

Legal

Lenny Fineday and Joe Plumer were present. Judicial Code and Sovereign Immunity discussion was held. Clarification is needed on this process. Policy 311 needs to be reviewed. The Tribal Council needs to clarify the law. Is the sovereign waiver of immunity to be utilized for employee appeals or not. Lenny will gather more information as to the history of policy 311 and will provide options for review and approval at next work session.

Meeting recessed at 2:20 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 2:35 p.m.

Land Purchasing/Updates

Katherine Warren/Monica Hedstrom were present. Discussion was held regarding the elder homes throughout the communities. Leasing policies for the Tribal land office have been drafted; legal counsel still needs to review.

Question was asked about WELSA funding availability for land purchasing; amount needs to be identified. According to finance there is other funding available for land purchasing [REDACTED] Katherine should work with Scott and Don in finance to combine the funding lists that were provided to identify funding amounts. Negotiations is taking place with Strawberry Christian Retreat. Cedar Crest is potential property up for sale again. Katherine was asked to compile a list of potential property purchases for review.

Meeting recessed at 3:30 p.m.

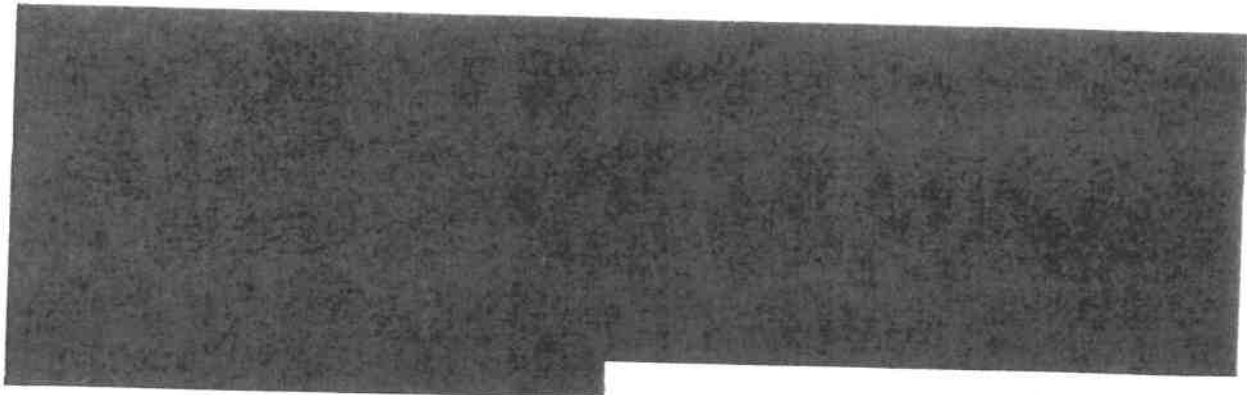
Meeting reconvened at 3:43 p.m.

Employee Grievance Process

Nakoa Graff provided Policy #305 for review. Tribal Council was provided a grievance document from an employee who stated she was referred to Tribal Council by the HR Director. The chain of command was not followed; there is concern regarding this. Consensus of Tribal Council is to direct the grievance per the policy that is in place. Nakoa was asked to follow up with this grievance.

Umsy Tibbetts left meeting at 4:18 p.m.

[REDACTED] discussion was held regarding posting of the position and the appeal that is in place. Nakoa was asked to follow up with legal for an opinion. Nakoa stated that the individual that appealed was released from employment. There is a risk to posting the position, but it can be posted.



Tabled Business Continued

WE Business Enterprises - Tabled

Pow-wow Grounds - Tabled

Land Resolutions

Megan Bakken - Tabled

Other

Burial Insurance (Kelly – Anderson Funeral Home) - Tabled

Tribal Attorney - Tabled

Elders Home Repair - Tabled

Niibii Star Tribune Article - Tabled

Travel Updates - Tabled

Adjourn

Motion made by Tara Mason to adjourn meeting at 4:53 p.m., Seconded by Punky Clark.
Motion carried, 3 for, 0 against.

Tara Mason, Secretary/Treasurer