

**White Earth Reservation Tribal Council
Special Meeting
August 31, 2015 –9:00 a.m.
White Earth, MN**

Chairwoman Erma J. Vizenor called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m., roll call was taken with a quorum present.

Present: Erma J. Vizenor, Chairwoman
Tara Mason, Secretary/Treasurer
Steven "Punky" Clark, District I Representative
Kathy Goodwin, District II Representative
Gus Bevins, District III Representative

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

Agenda Approval

Motion made by Kathy Goodwin to approve, Seconded by Punky Clark. Motion carried, 4 for, 0 against.

RTC Meeting Minutes (8/24/15)

Motion made by Punky Clark to approve, Seconded by Kathy Goodwin. Motion carried, 4 for, 0 against.

Calendar Review

Economic Development Structure

Michael Neusser was present and gave an overview of the White Earth Development Organization (WEDO) and restructuring of economic development division as catalysts to progress. Erma asked if in the future if there would be a financial institution added into the structure, there are many advantages to having our own financial institution; Michaels recommendation would be to bring in an individual to discuss this option - Erma requested this be scheduled.

Motion made by Kathy Goodwin to proceed with the structure as presented, Resolution #016-15-017, Seconded by Tara Mason. Motion carried, 4 for, 0 against.

Callaway Industrial Park

Brief discussion was held. Erma requested that the letter being drafted to Shakopee state that the funds would be a match.

Legislative Update

Barb Rohde was present. Discussion was held regarding SNAP. The reporting was to be done August 1st but was not done. Barb stated she thinks they will allow this with certain circumstances; WE will be the model. Barb has been trying to figure out that once the recommendation comes down can USDA do this or will it need to be done through executive order. Barb is hoping this will be done within the year; would like to see it as regulatory within USDA. August 31st is the date that all information needed to be reviewed and submitted. The funding of \$1.4 million a year (State appropriation) - the Tribe has not been getting. Barb is asking if there is anything that needs to be sent as far as notification to meet today's deadline to help in the research teams decision. Barbs recommendation would be to draft a letter from the Tribal Chair. Tara stated it will be 2 years before the State will re-appropriate. Barb stated we want to make sure that the research team is aware that the language in decision needs to be addressed.

Barb is hoping that the MAP 21 Reauthorization (Highway Bill) increases in funding for the tribal transportation program and the tribal transit operating grant program will provide similar increases as did the senate. There will be more funding added in for safety - this money could be implemented in to the program.

Tara left meeting at 11:39 a.m.

Tara re-entered meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Additional issues that were briefly discussed were sequestration cuts - Obama has strongly signaled he does not want cuts and several bills have been introduced that would exempt Tribal Nations from cuts if they are enacted. Appropriation bills was briefly discussed. Other issues that could be worked on would be NAHASDA funding as formulas have not changed in years, and Tribal and Family Wellness Courts.

Tara Mason left meeting at 12:03 p.m.

Natural Resources

Monica Hedstrom and Al Fox were present.

CRP Renewals - one of the site locations is for the proposed new IHS facility. Question was asked whether or not the year term could be changed; Monica stated she would ask.

Special Use Permits

Previous approval was for 3 deer, 1 additional deer is needed - consensus was to approve.

Other

Child Care Licensing (Jaeger, Midbo, Bartos, Olson)

Motion made by Kathy Goodwin to approve, Seconded by Punky Clark. Motion carried, 3 for, 0 against.

Credit Card Policy - Tabled

Purchasing Policy - Tabled

Cass Lake Property

Ken will request that Lorena tour/inspect the Reimer property and bring back. Consensus was to hold off on the purchasing property's at this time.

Leave Donation

Motion made by Kathy Goodwin to approve leave donation of up to 80 hours for [REDACTED], Seconded by Punky Clark. Motion carried, 3 for, 0 against.

Adjourn

Motion made by Kathy Goodwin to adjourn meeting at 12:28 p.m., Seconded by Punky Clark. Motion carried, 3 for, 0 against.

Tara Mason, Secretary/Treasurer