

**White Earth Reservation Tribal Council
Special Meeting
November 28, 2016 – 9:00 a.m.
White Earth, MN**

Vice-Chairman Steven "Punky" Clark called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m., roll call was taken with a quorum present.

Present: Steven "Punky" Clark, District I Representative (Vice-Chairman)
Kathy Goodwin, District II Representative
Eugene "Umsy" Tibbetts, District III Representative

Absent: Terrence "Terry" Tibbetts, Chairman
Tara Mason, Secretary/Treasurer

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

Agenda Approval

Motion made by Umsy Tibbetts to approve, Seconded by Kathy Goodwin. Motion carried, 2 for, 0 against.

RTC Meeting Minutes (11/21/16)

Kathy made comment that she still has concern about the WEHA furnace/extinguisher donation request being combined in the Shakopee request for the drum hall.

Tara Mason entered meeting at 9:20 a.m.



Motion made by Tara Mason to approve meeting minutes, Seconded by Kathy Goodwin. Motion carried, 3 for, 0 against

Calendar Review

Brief discussion was held on December 9th closing date for MCT Attorney RFP. Tara discussed email she would like to send to MCT/TEC President regarding insight needed on this issue.

Foster Care Licensing

David Goodman, Katie Olson, Paula Smith, and Eugene Sommers were present.

New worker, Eugene Sommers started today to replace Dan York. Looking at level of care and commitment. Might need new foster care worker for looking at therapeutic work. Go into homes to visit each homes every month. Each worker is assigned to a certain home.

All backgrounds for licensing have been done. There are a lot of relative homes, barely any tribal homes taking non-relatives. Guardian Ad Litem sits under Tribal court.

Motion made by Kathy Goodwin to renew licensing for Tribal Relative Foster care, Seconded by Eugene "Umsy" Tibbetts. Motion carried, 3 for, 0 against.

Motion made by Umsy to approve District III New Tribal Foster Care licenses, seconded by Kathy Goodwin. Motion carried, 1 for, 0 against, 2 silent.

Motion made by Kathy Goodwin to approve District II New Tribal Foster Care licenses, seconded by Tara Mason. Motion carried, 3 for, 0 against.

Motion made by Tara Mason to approve District I New Tribal Foster Care licenses, seconded by Umsy. Motion carried, 3 for, 0 against.

Motion made by Tara Mason to approve off reservation New Tribal Foster Care licenses, seconded by Umsy. Motion carried, 3 for, 0 against.

Meeting recessed at 10:17 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 10:30 a.m.

Bill Crowell was present. Letter of complaint concerning White Earth Housing Authority. Inaccuracies and concerns that shed a negative light on Housing authority. Most concerning was signed by Bill Crowell. Some sensitive information that is being miscued and used Bill's name and identity going to a Federal office. Do not need any Federal concerns with current issues with Housing. Legal has been advised. Pam Fairbanks brought letter to light. Mark Butterfield, head of HUD, was also contacted. With a new Trump administration, need to have each other's back within the tribes. Whoever wrote the letter does not care about Housing or White Earth. Going to housing homeless is a crisis situation, letter brings more stress. Investigators were brought in to try and find out who wrote the letter. Forensic audit, rumor that Tara was covering and not releasing because Kathy was named in it. Kathy stated she has not been connected with WEHA in over 11 years. Audit was turned over to Terry Tibbetts to work with Lenny Fineday. Loans that were taken out were horrible with interest rates. Houses were need to be rehabbed for 200,000, when they could've been built brand new for that much. Low on findings and high on recommendations, how to change code and structure for Housing. Lenny will ask for paperwork.

Other

Resolution - Child/Family Protection Code

Lenny Fineday for Child/Family Protection Code. Updated resolution from January to March. Updates from case law. Federal government federal code of regulations for ICW. Clearly spells out mandated reporter requirements and more steps for investigation. Community members comply with ICW and quality assurance that ICW is doing their jobs. Larger roles for guardian ad litem. Lays out court steps for civil procedures. Alternative process for court disputes, possible healing or wellness setting. Statutory requirements for CHIPS plans and suspension of parental rights. Unique to child protection cases within ICW. Truancy code is part of the juvenile code, can be seen as educational neglect which will be brought to ICW. Policy determination between courts and ICW. Child protection and juvenile code are statutes. Possible having an extra expense for anybody brought into court for a child custody case. RBC is governing body taking care of the laws. Biggest change is ICW commission, brought up by Tara Mason. Child welfare is a negative area and have to do the best possible to help families and children. Forfeiture code was being brought up. Joe thinks it will be abused, Lenny thinks it will work. Commission to oversee the police department to take complaints and others, needs to be an ordinance or code. Need to look at the constitutional base which goes back to MCT. Anything to do with gaps on drugs in the community needs to be looked at. TEC bylaws are just about done, struggling a little with Natural Resources. Punky has a little more insight on Natural Resources.

Motion made by Kathy Goodwin to approve Resolution #019-17-001, revised White Earth Child and Family Protection code, seconded by Tara Mason. Motion carried, 3 for, 0 against.

Law Clarification (Pow-wow Committee Articles of Incorporation) - Consensus was it should be organized under White Earth, not the state or MCT.

Resolution – Shakopee Funding Request (Drum Hall/WEHA) - Motion made by Kathy Goodwin for discussion of funding request, seconded by Tara Mason. 3 for, 0 against. Request for Dawn Sherk. Should be individual because only one can be done upon completion. Combine the monies from Housing and RBC, lump sum from Shakopee. Pow wow will be done this Spring, Dawn is head organizer for Drum Hall. Some are opposed to getting a drum, but drum ceremony has been here for years. Deserve a drum hall for drum ceremonies that are separate from funerals. Bid for 750,000 for just a drum. Dawn stated that Mike Triplett has no concerns with sending both applications at the same time to Shakopee. Frank Stech provided a great narrative for insight. It will be for the entire community, not just for District II, the center of the reservation. Looking at USDA dollars for the old Naytahwaush center. Need drum hall as Anishinaabeg and our culture. Looking at getting old COLA stove to bring to the old center and repurposing steel at Rice Lake. Fridge is huge and physically built into the building. Pine Point facility condition assessment was screwed up since the casino pulled out. Working with WEDO and firm to pick what buildings to change. Was not approved at Gaming Commission.

Motion made by Tara Mason to approve Shakopee Funding Request, Seconded by Kathy Goodwin. Motion carried, 3 for, 0 against.

Meeting recessed at 11:17 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 11:31 a.m.

Child Care Licensing [REDACTED] Motion made by Kathy Goodwin to approve, Seconded by Tara Mason. Motion carried, 3 for, 0 against.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Alan presented an agenda for legislation. At the safe harbors conference, there is no state tribal group for victim's services. Would like to add to the agenda for White Earth. More communicating and a larger agenda for what needs to happen. Beneficial that conversations between different programs is brought back to Indian Affairs. Dennis Olson as Executive Director of Indian Affairs.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Star Lake Meeting needs dates looked at and ample time to prepare and get the notice out from Chairman. Three to four weeks lead time.

Adjourn

Motion made by Tara Mason to adjourn at 12:24 p.m., seconded by Kathy Goodwin. Motion carried, 3 for, 0 against.

Tara Mason, Secretary/Treasurer