

## WHITE EARTH RESERVATION

CHAIRMAN Michael Fairbanks SECRETARY-TREASURER Leonard Alan Roy DISTRICT I Raymond Auginaush, Sr. DISTRICT II Kathy Goodwin DISTRICT III Eugene "Umsy" Tibbetts

August 24,2019

Leonard Alan Roy Secretary/Treasurer White Earth RBC White Earth, MN 56591

Kathy Goodwin District II Representative White Earth RBC White Earth, MN 56591 Raymond Auginaush Sr. District I Representative White Earth RBC White Earth, MN 56591

Eugene Tibbetts District II Representative White Earth RBC White Earth, MN 56591

White Earth Reservation Business Committee Members:

This letter is to inform you that effective August 26<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM, all official business of the White Earth Reservation Business Committee shall be conducted in conformity with ordinance No. I-65 (Revised), the duly enacted bylaws of the White Earth RBC. As required by the bylaws, regular meetings of the RBC shall be held on the first Thursday of each March, June, September and December. The bylaws do not authorize any further regular meetings of the RBC.

Any meetings beyond the mandatory regular meetings are special meetings and any special meeting shall be conducted in conformity with Ordinance No. I-65 (Revised). Also, special meetings may be initiated only by one of the following methods: at any time by the Chairman; upon the request of at least three RBC members; or upon receipt of a petition supported by the signatures of no less than 20% of the resident eligible voters of the Band. Ordinance No. I-65 further limits the circumstances in which a special meeting may be requested: "Special meetings may be requested only if a delay until the next regular meeting would involve the loss of life, benefits, or property". The threshold for requesting the Chairman to schedule a special meeting is high, and the Chairman will schedule a special meeting only if one of the permitted reasons has been met in a request.

Because Ordinance No. I-65 mandates that the Chairman shall preside over all meetings of the RBC, except those meetings considering charges against the Chairman pursuant to Article X of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Constitution, any request for a special meeting that does not involve Article X issues must be presented to the Chairman. Ordinance No. I-65 authorizes the Chairman alone to determine whether one of the limited circumstances for scheduling a special meeting has been met. If the Chairman finds that a particular request for a special meeting does meet the threshold specified in Article II, Section 2, no special meeting will be scheduled.

No special meeting of the RBC shall take place unless the requirements of Ordinance No. I-65 have been met; and any RBC meeting that may take place without complying with the requirements of the ordinance will subject the participants to the removal provisions of Article X of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Constitution.

The prior RBC practice of holding special meetings virtually every week is not in conformity with Ordinance No. I-65, and future special meetings will be permitted only if the requirements of the ordinance are met. It is my hope that the structured methods of conducting the business of the White Earth tribal government included in the duly enacted bylaws will require us to focus on our responsibilities to the people who have elected us to these positions.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Fairbanks Chairman

## ORDINANCE NO. 1-65 (REVISED)

Pursuant to Article VI, Section 1, of the Bylaws of the Revised Constitution and Bylaws of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, Minnesota, approved by the Secretary of the Interior on March 3, 1964, the following Bylaws shall govern the duties of the officers and Committee members of the White Earth Tribal Council and its meetings:

ARTICLE I. - DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS OF THE WHITE EARTH TRIBAL COUNCIL.

- SECTION 1. The Chairman of the White Earth Tribal Council shall:
- (a) Preside over all meetings of the White Earth Tribal
  Council, except those considering charges brought against
  him pursuant to Article X of the Constitution;
- (b) Act as the chief executive officer to administer the policies and instructions of the White Earth Tribal Council, exercising general supervision of all other tribal officers and top supervisory tribal employees and to ensure that their respective duties are performed, but shall have no authority to exercise powers vested exclusively in the White Earth Tribal Council;
- (c) Affix his signature to official documents, on instructions from the White Earth Tribal Council and with the Secretary-Preasurer;
- (d) Countersign warrants duly drawn by the Secretary-Treasurer

against funds of the Band;

(e) Report on all tribal affairs and interest conducted at the Tribal Executive Committee meetings.

(f) Not vote in meetings of the White Earth Tribal Council except in the case of a tie.

SECTION 2. In the absence of, or disability of, the Chairman, a Vice-Chairman shall preside. When so presiding, he shall have all rights, privileges and duties as set forth above.

SECTION 3. The Secretary-Treasurer of the White Earth Tribal Council shall:

- (a) Cause to be made and maintain a complete and accurate record of all proceedings of and actions taken at each regular and special meeting of the White Earth Tribal Council - copies of such minutes to be furnished the Tribal Manager of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Tribal Executive Committee, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Tribal Operations officer, and such other persons as shall be designated by the White Earth Tribal Council;
- (b) At the direction of the Chairman and the White Earth Tribal Council, conduct all correspondence of the White Earth Tribal Council and issue tribal and public notices;
- (c) On instruction from the White Earth Tribal Council and with the Chairman, affix his signature to official documents;
- (d) Accept, receipt for and safeguard all funds and property of the Band and shall keep complete and accurate records of receipts, expenditures and property in strict

accordance with accounting procedures or administrative plan set up by the White Earth Tribal Council.

- (e) Shall be a bonded officer who shall not receipt for or disburse funds of the Band except as duly authorized by the White Earth Tribal Council.
- (f) Procure an independent audit of the accounting records of the Band at least once a year, unless explicitly waived by the White Earth Tribal Council, and shall make audit reports available to the Tribal Manager of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, Tribal Executive Committee, and Bureau of Indian Affairs.
- (g) Make audit reports and accounting records available for public inspection by tribal members at all reasonable times.
- (h) Be prepared to report at each regular meeting of the White Earth Tribal Cuncil, the financial condition of the Band and shall promptly report any and all violations of established fiscal procedures and all unauthorized use of tribal funds and property with recommendations for appropriate action.
- SECTION 4. The duties and functions of all appointive committees, and employees shall be clearly defined by resolution.

ARTICLE II - MEETINGS OF THE WHITE EARTH TRIBAL COUNCIL SECTION 1. <u>Regular Meetings</u> of the White Earth Tribal Council shall be held on the first Thursday of each March,

June, September and December.

SECTION 2. Special meetings may be called:

- (a) At any time by the Chairman;
- (b) Upon request of at least three (3) members of the White Earth Tribal Council;
- (c) Upon receipt of a qualified petition, supported by the signatures of no less than twenty percent (20%) of the resident eligible voters of the Band. (See Exhibit A attached hereto for the requirements of said petition).

Special meetings may be requested only if a delay until the next regular meeting would involve the loss of life, benefits, or property.

- SECTION 3. Three (3) members of the White Earth Tribal Council shall constitute a <u>quorum</u> and Robert's Rules shall govern its meetings, except as provided in said Rules, no business shall be transacted unless a quorum is present.
- SECTION 4. The order of business at any meeting so far as possible shall be:
  - (a) Call to order by the presiding officer.
  - (b) Invocation.
  - (c) Roll call.
  - (d) Reading and disposal of the minutes of the last meeting.
  - (e) Reports of committees and officers.

4

- (f) Unfinished business.
- (g) New Business.

(h) Adjournment.

## ARTICLE III - INSTALLATION OF WHITE EARTH TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

New members of the White Earth Tribal Council who have been duly elected shall be installed at the first regular meeting of the White Earth Tribal Council following election of the Council members, upon subscribing to the following oath:

 $W_{1} \rightarrow 0$ 

6 100

"I, \_\_\_\_\_\_, do hereby swear that I will support, honor and respect the Constitution of the United States and the Revised Constitution and Bylaws of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and will faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of my office to the best of my judgement and ability, so help me God."

ARTICLE IV - VACANCIES

A vacancy in the White Earth Tribal Council shall be filled by the members of the White Earth Reservation by an election held within thirty (30) days from the date the vacancy occurs under rules prescribed by the Tribal Executive Committee. During the interim, the White Earth Tribal Council shall be empowered to appoint a temporary Tribal Council committeeman to represent the reservation until such time as the election herein provided for has been held and the successful candidate is elected and seated.

ARTICLE V - MISCELLANEOUS

SECTION 1. The White Earth Tribal Council shall, at its first

meeting after an election, elect or appoint from the elected White Earth Tribal Committeeman, a Vice-Chairman.

SECTION 2. The White Earth Tribal Council may prepare and adopt an Administrative Plan, establishing written guidelines to be followed by tribal officials, employees, committees, and subordinate tribal organizations in managing and conducting, under proper measures of control through the approved budget, the Band's tribal operations. Such an Administrative Plan will set forth in detail the fiscal, employment, and program procedures and shall be reviewed periodically and revised as needed.

## CERTIFICATION OF ADOPTION

Be it enacted by the White Earth Tribal Council of the White Earth Reservation, a quorum present, that Ordinance No. 1-65 has been approved and adopted this <u>3rd</u> day of <u>Tune</u>, 1991 at White Earth, Minnesota, by a vote of <u>4</u> for and <u>0</u> against.

Dated: June 3, 1991

Darrell Wadena,

Chairman

Dated: June 3, 1991

6