

Reservation Business Committee

Regular Meeting

December 29th, 2023

Mahnomen, MN

Chairman Michael Fairbanks called the meeting to order at 9:43 am, roll call was taken with a quorum present.

Present: Michael Fairbanks, Chairman
Michael LaRoque, Secretary-Treasurer
Henry Fox, District I Representative
Eugene Sommers, District II Representative
Cheryl "Annie" Jackson, District III Representative

Absent:

Others Present: Curtis Rogers, Deputy Director
Tracy Lhotka, Chief Financial Officer
Andrea Kingbird, General Counsel
AmiJo Wadena, Recorder

Agenda Approval

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve the agenda with additions, second by Eugene Sommers.
Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Meeting Minutes (11/29/23)

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve the meeting minutes, second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

New Business

Giziibii Resource Conservation and Development Association
Brief Discussion held on letter from Giziibii Resource Conservation and Development's Council
Chairman requesting a donation and appointment of a board member.

- Tabled

Grand Drag Show Planning

Mary Gagnon and Ashley Bunker are present

The Pride Tribe is requesting approval of a resolution and motion, to recognize and approve the group Pride Tribe. If the resolution is not approved today, Pride Tribe would like to request acknowledgment of

their organization by RBC. This recognition would help reduce costs of hosting the Grand Drag Show at the Shooting Star.

Motion made by Cheryl "Annie" Jackson to approve Resolution , second by Henry Fox. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Consent Agenda

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve the consent agenda with additions, second by Henry Fox. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to enter executive session, second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Meeting recessed at 10:12 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 10:22 a.m.

Meeting Entered Executive Session at 10:22 a.m.

Executive Session

Enrollment Resolutions

Representative Cheryl "Annie" Jackson will be voting silent on the enrollment resolutions, as she is unable to see the documents provided to RBC.

Eligible for Enrollment

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve [REDACTED], second by Michael LaRoque. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against, 1 silent.

Ineligible for Enrollment

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve [REDACTED] second by Henry Fox. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against, 1 silent.

No Parent

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve [REDACTED] second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against, 1 silent.

Add Parent

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve [REDACTED], second by Henry Fox. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against, 1 silent.

Add Parent

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve [REDACTED], second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against, 1 silent.

Add Parent

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve [REDACTED], second by Henry Fox. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against, 1 silent.

Blood Degree Change

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve [REDACTED], second by Eugene Sommers.

Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against, 1 silent.

Gaming Commission

- Tabled

SWCA Contract

The contract had been approved and signed in a previous RBC meeting, however the total funds allowed had been limited to \$10,000. The total amount for services exceeds the limit, along with the budget for the Legal Department. Contract funds may need to be appropriated from the casino.

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve SWCA Contract, second by Cheryl "Annie" Jackson.

Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Retainer for Kanji and Katzen Legal Services

Discussion held on the contract with Federal Law Firm Kanji and Katzen. The upfront cost is significant; however, the investment would greatly benefit White Earth.

Motion made by Henry Fox to approve the contract, second by Michael LaRoque. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Anishinaabe Legal Services Board Service

Request is made for Andrea Kingbird to maintain her seat as a board member for Anishinaabe Legal Services.

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to allow Andrea to continue her service as a member on the Anishinaabe Legal Services Board, second by Cheryl "Annie" Jackson. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Betty McCollum Fundraiser

Discussion held on invitation and donation to Congresswoman Betty McCollum's annual fundraiser. The Chairman will be attending the upcoming fundraiser. RBC donated the maximum amount the previous year, which they agree to do this year.

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve a donation for Congresswoman McCollum's fundraiser up to the maximum amount but not to exceed \$4,000, second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Bill Haas Contract

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve Bill Haas' contract, second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Peebles Kidder LLP Agreement

- Tabled

American Indian Substance Abuse Advising Council

- Tabled

American Indian Mental Health Advisory Council

- Tabled

Enterprise Board

Discussion held on vacant seat on White Earth Enterprise Board. Jeremy Syverson expressed interest for the Enterprise board seat. Jeremy is a current manager at Oshkimanidoo, with an educational background in Business. Mr. Syverson would be an ideal candidate to fill the open seat.

Concern expressed by Secretary-Treasurer LaRoque over appointment process, as it could take the opportunity away from another equally qualified individual. RBC could post the position, allowing Jeremy and others interested to apply.

Recommendation from Council is to post and interview for open Enterprise Board seat.

Education certificate amendment.

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve, second by Henry Fox. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

[REDACTED]

Meeting recessed at 10:58 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 11:17 a.m.

Public Safety

Mindy Iverson, Merlin Deegan and Tyrell are present

Wage Analysis

On October 11th, WEPD worked with White Earth Human Resources on a wage analysis for the department WEPD would like to introduce a step process for Officers, Dispatchers and Data Entry Clerks to remain a competitive employment option, while potentially reducing the number of employees that leave the department for higher waged positions.

The step process would allow wages to vary for new hires as their wage would be based on years of experience when joining the department. From there, an officer's wage would increase gradually, based on longevity and job performance. The process will also allow the officers that have served the community for a significant period to earn a wage to retain and keep them in the community.

Recommendation from the Chairman is to introduce the WEPD Step Process as a 2-year pilot project.

Secretary-Treasurer Michael LaRoque expressed his support of WEPD's transition to the step process, as it would ensure police officers remain in the community and continue to serve the people.

Representative Cheryl "Annie" Jackson is in support of the new step process, with the condition that new hires receive some training on how to interact with the community members in a good way.

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve the implementation of the White Earth Public Safety Department's wage step process, second by Michael LaRoque. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

City of Mahanomen Police Contract

Brief discussion held on 2024-2025 contract with the City of Mahanomen Police Department. Andrea directed RBC's attention to the portion regarding the Waiver of Sovereign Immunity, for acknowledgment.

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve the 2024-2025 Contract with the City of Mahanomen Police Department, second by Henry Fox. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Adjourn

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to adjourn meeting at 11:46 a.m., second by Cheryl "Annie" Jackson. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Michael LaRoque, Secretary/Treasurer