

White Earth Reservation Business Committee

Regular Meeting

May 31, 2024

Mahnomen, MN

Chairman Michael Fairbanks called the meeting to order at 9:33 am, roll call was taken with a quorum present.

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

Others Present: Laurie York, Executive Director
Curtis Rogers, Deputy Director
AmiJo Wadena, Recorder
Andrea Kingbird, General Counsel
Tracy Lhotka, CFO

Agenda

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

RBC Meeting Minutes (02/28/24, 3/29/24,4/26/24 & 5/09/24)

Motion made by Cheryl "Annie" Jackson to approve meeting minutes; second by Mike LaRoque. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

White Earth Elders Committee

No Present

White Earth Elders Commission

Announcement for commission election was submitted to the Anishinaabeg Paper. There are two seats from District II and one At Large up for this upcoming election. The primary will be held June 17th- July 1st, with the general election being held on August 12th.

Old Business

No Old Business

New Business

THPO Grant

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve the THPO Grant; second by Mike LaRoque. Motion Carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Chuck Hilger

Chuck Hilger is present.

Discussion held on opportunities for White Earth to address the homelessness issue for tribal members within the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan area.

Secretary/Treasurer LaRoque read a letter to White Earth RBC from the Mayor of Minneapolis, Jacob Frey.

Eugene Sommers left the meeting at 9:46 a.m.

The tribe has identified several parcels of land that could be used to address the homelessness issue.

Discussion was held on potential collaboration between White Earth and other Minnesota tribal nations to address homelessness in the metro area.

Eugene returned to the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

Consent Agenda/Signatory Requests and Ratifications

Motion made by Cheryl "Annie" Jackson to approve the consent agenda, with changes; second by Mike LaRoque. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to move the meeting into executive session; second by Cheryl "Annie" Jackson. Motion carried 4 for, 0 against.

Meeting Recessed at 10:19 a.m.

Meeting Reconvened at 10:42 a.m.

Meeting Entered Executive Session at 10:42 a.m.

Executive Session

Land

Megan Bakken and Sarah LaFriniere are present.

Homesite Resolutions

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

Lakeshore Resolutions

Motion made by Cheryl "Annie" Jackson to approve; second by Henry Fox. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against, 1 silent.

Residential Resolutions

Motion made by Cheryl "Annie" Jackson to approve; second by Henry Fox. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against, 1 silent.

Business Resolutions

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

Other Resolutions

The Land Office was preauthorized for this, however the price was able to be negotiated from \$163,000 down to \$130,000.

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve; second by Cheryl "Annie" Jackson. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Lake Lot #11

[REDACTED]

There is a resolution being presented today for approval to cancel the current lease on the lot. Request made to have typo on second page corrected.

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve resolution with changes; second by Cheryl "Annie" Jackson. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Collier Consulting and SWCA Contracts

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve; second by Cheryl "Annie" Jackson. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Water Protection Ordinance and Litigation- Task Force

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve; second by Cheryl "Annie" Jackson. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Red Circle Request

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to deny request; second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Chairman Fairbanks left meeting at 11:24 a.m.

Chuck Hilger

Annie exited meeting at 11:21 a.m.

Chairman Fairbanks returned at 11:27 a.m.

Discussion held on offer made by current owner of Nivon Wellness Center in St. Paul. She is looking to sell her business and has extended offers to several tribes to purchase and take over operations. If RBC were to obtain and resume operations of this clinic, it would expand substance abuse services to members in the St. Paul area.

Recommendation by General Counsel is to draft a letter of intent for purchase, to allow more discussion to be held.

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve the letter of Intent Nivon Wellness Center; second by Henry Fox. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Becker County Mental Health Grant

- Tabled

Sponsorship

Discussion held on assistance on the establishment of White Earth's Athletic Commission, as well as potential for use of the Shooting Star Event Center for a televised fight series. More discussion will be held later.

Drug Task Force Property Agreement

Brief discussion held on the authorization for the drug task force to set up a camera within the reservation boundaries, to increase their surveillance abilities.

Motion made by Henry Fox to approve; second by Michael LaRoque. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Adjourn

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to adjourn at 11: 45 a.m.; second by Henry Fox. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Michael LaRoque, Secretary/Treasurer