

Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewas

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

January 30, 2017

4:30 p.m. Legendary Waters, Buffalo Bay Grand Ballroom

ROLL CALL

Bryan Bainbridge, Present
Nathan Gordon, Present
Mercie Gordon, Present
Krystle Topping, Present
Daniel Duffy, Present
Jeanne Gordon, Present

Antone Basina, Present
Chris Boyd, Absent (Excused)
Steven Boyd, Present

Quorum

Chairman Bryan Bainbridge called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Others present: David Ujke -Tribal Attorney, Wade Williams – Assistant Tribal Attorney, Chad Abel – Treaty Natural Resources Division Administrator, Dee Gokee-Rindall - Education Division Administrator, Lorna Gamble – Interim Family/Human Services Administrator, Rebecca Benton – Interim Family/Human Services, Robert Powless – Public Works Administrator, - Jim Farrell – Health Division, Steven Boulley – Chief Tribal Judge, Dennis Soulier – Interim CFO, Desiree Livingston – Assistant CFO and community members.

AGENDA

Removed “Red Cliff Chippewa Housing Authority”. No report was received. This item will be added to the February 6, 2017 Regular meeting.

Nathan Gordon moved to approve the amended agenda. Seconded by Antone Basina. Motion carried.

OPENING CEREMONY

Opening ceremony performed by Carolyn Gouge.

QUARTERLY REPORTS

CHAIRPERSON

Chairman Bainbridge expressed his appreciation to the community, tribal staff and Tribal Council members. He provided an overview of his written report highlighting his various meetings with staff, state/federal agencies and conferences attended. No discussion.

Nathan Gordon moved to accept the Chairman report for October 2016 through December 2016. Seconded by Jeanne Gordon. Motion carried.

VICE CHAIRMAN

Vice-Chairman Gordon spoke of the daily and weekly meetings with key staff and Division Administrators. He also spoke of the many meetings with community members, county, tribal and state officials. He emphasized his belief in working as a “team” for the benefit of the tribe as a whole. He acknowledged the work of the staff and present/past Council.

Jeanne Gordon moved to accept the Vice-Chairman report for October 2016 through December 2016. Seconded by Dan Duffy. 1-Abstension (Nathan Gordon) Motion carried.

PLANNER

Planning staff were not present. Ellen Kwiatkowski has recently left her position with the Tribe. No discussion or questions raised on the Planning report.

Jeanne moved to accept the Planner report for October 2016 through December 2016. Seconded by Steven Boyd. Motion carried.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER (CFO)

Dennis Soulier, Interim CFO and Desiree Livingston, Assistant CFO took on their current roles on October 3rd, 2016. The Property and Procurement Office is now fully staffed, with Tara Albert filling the Property/Inventory Clerk position this quarter. A budget and investment plan will need to be approved by Council regarding the Ramah Navajo Chapter – Class action Settlement. Dennis will provide additional information on options at the first or second meeting in February. The contract with Falmouth for Financial Policies Manual revisions has been terminated and an RFP has been posted, deadline for bids is January 31st. Discussion on Accounting Department needs: Dennis stated one more staff member or “general floater” is needed and would help the Department tremendously.

Steven Boyd moved to accept the CFO report for October 2016 through December 2016. Seconded by Dan Duffy. Motion carried.

DIVISION ADMINISTRATORS

Treaty Natural Resources: Chad Abel presented his written report. He acknowledged Ron Nordin and Jeremy St. Arnold for their work with the youth. They have done a great job by offering lessons in the middle school classrooms. Chapter 11 revisions are completed which was a lengthy task and Chapter 12 is being worked on currently. The Division took time this quarter to repair and clean up the red barn at the Red Cliff Farm. They repaired the exterior and the building is now being utilized. Discussion on indoor air quality assessments: Ernie Grooms conducts these assessments and offer them to both tribal facilities and individual homes. Those interested in having their home assessed may contact him at 779-5650.

Education Division: Dee Gokee-Rindall reported on ECC data which included attendance rates and child care usage. Services/classroom hours were extended beginning today and will take getting used to. Jenny Schlender was hired as the Education Director in December, the Education Department data will be reported on at the next quarterly meeting. An intern will be starting tomorrow in the Library. Dee is also writing a grant to IMLS for additional funding for the Library. Chairman Bainbridge asked that data on K-12 students be provided in future reports. The ECC is in need of substitute teachers, they have raised the wage from \$8 to \$9 an hour. Antone asked that the budget be looked at to determine if this wage could be increased further. This may encourage more applicants.

Health Services Division: Jim Farrell and the new Health Division Administrator Jagdish Goswami reported on the various activities conducted the past quarter. A major focus has been medical coding. A new coder was hired and Forest County Potawatomi has donated time to assist in getting caught up. The Health Center will be holding a Winter Festival the week of February 5th through the 10th. Share the Care Conference will be hosted by Red Cliff this year in May at Legendary Waters. SafeServ Food Managers and Handlers class will be offered soon and the Ziigwaan Festival is set for April 14th. Dr. Goswami stated he had made visits to the Bayfield School recently and may attend a Water rally in Madison to learn of the important concerns of the Red Cliff community. He noted the exercise room is open for public use. He is also looking at revising the Policies and Procedures and eliminating internal committees.

Family/Human Services Division: Lorna Gamble and Rebecca Benton presented the Division report which included individual program reports. A number of new employees were hired this quarter including a TANF and ICW caseworkers. The TANF program is offering SafeServ classes in March to TANF clients as well as partnering with TNR Division on Firefighting training. The Child Support Program has partnered with NW CEP to assist clients in finding employment. Family Violence program purchased software to track clients and other data. Energy Assistance is doing outreach to elders and New Hope residents. CST Program is having difficulty in obtaining referrals;

Lorna believed that the eligibility requirements may be a barrier. The Youth Center report included only November data, Rebecca will provide October and December reports to Council as soon as possible. Lorna also noted the Youth Center has inadequate space which is a challenge to providing additional activities for the youth. General Assistance clients increased due to many TANF clients maxing out their 60 month time limit for cash assistance.

Protective Services Division: Discussion was had on an Emergency Evacuation Plan. There currently is not a plan in place and has not been looked at in sometime. The Division is in need of EMTs, community members are encouraged to become certified. A suggestion was made to do outreach at community events to recruit. Chief Mertig has had meetings with Health Center staff regarding EMS services. It would be helpful for the Health Division to take over administration of this service.

Public Works Division: Robert Powless provided the report detailing all work done by the Maintenance Department the past quarter. There are five meters that have yet to be installed, this has been a long process.

Antone Basina moved to accept the Division reports. Seconded by Jeanne Gordon. Motion carried.

UTILITIES COMMISSION

Bob Bear and Robert Powless presented the Utilities Commission annual report. Much was discussed in regards to delinquent accounts for Water & Sewer. The Commission is now working with Stark Collection Agency and has sent out letters to the most delinquent users. The monthly rates have increased 10% annually for the past three years but continue to be less than what is needed for the facility to operate. More work is needed to be done regarding collections of past due accounts, including discontinuing services to users. It was noted that there is no language within the codes that require a service moratorium.

Antone Basina moved to accept the Utilities Commission report. Seconded by Dan Duffy. Motion carried.

COURTS

Chief Judge Steven Bouley provided data on hearings and other activities during the past quarter. Jeanne Gordon asked of the status of hearing transcriptions on certain hearings. Judge Bouley stated there is more time needed due to lack of time and staff. There have been a number of hearings held up due to transcriptions not being completed or available. The Judge hopes to hire a part-time clerk to assist the Clerk of Court on her various duties.

Mercie Gordon moved to accept the report. Seconded by Jeanne Gordon. Motion carried.

LEGAL

Tribal Attorney Ujke and Assistant Attorney Williams presented quarterly report. Much of the information contained in the report is confidential and not made available to the public.

Steven Boyd moved to accept the report. Seconded by Nathan Gordon. Motion carried.

Krystle Topping moved to include the Compliance Officer and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer reports in future quarterly meetings. Seconded by Jeanne Gordon. Motion carried.

Krystle Topping made the motion to:

1. Post quarterly reports on the tribal website in the same format as presented, excluding Legal, Compliance Officer and CFO reports.
2. Require each quarterly report to include a list of acronyms with their meanings for tribal member viewing, in an effort to promote community engagement and demonstrate transparency of Tribal Government operations and programs.
3. Begin by posting the reports presented at this meeting, January 30, 2017.

Seconded by Nathan Gordon. Discussion: Jeanne Gordon made the suggestion to hold a Special Meeting to discuss the effectiveness of all current Committees and Boards. Motion carried.

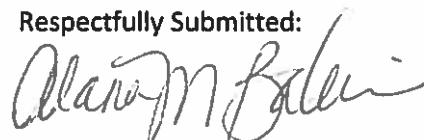
Antone Basina moved to go into Executive Session. Seconded by Dan Duffy. Motion carried.

Krystle Topping moved to return to Regular Session. Seconded by Mercie Gordon. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

Antone Basina moved to adjourn at 9:16 p.m. Seconded by Jeanne Gordon. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted:



Alana Babineau
Recording Secretary

ATTEST:



Mercie Gordon, Secretary
Red Cliff Tribal Council