

Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewas

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

July 24, 2017

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

ROLL CALL

Richard Peterson, Present

Nathan Gordon, Present

Mercie Gordon, Absent (Excused)

Johanna Wilson, Present

Daniel Duffy, Present

Carolyn Gouge, Present

Nicholas DePerry, Present

Jeanne Gordon, Present

Antone Basina, Present

Quorum

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

Others present: Bill Mertig – Protective Services Division Administrator, Carmen VanderVenter – Compliance/Internal Audit Officer, Dennis Soulier – Interim CFO, Steven Bouley – Chief Tribal Judge, Dave Ujke – Tribal Attorney, Wade Williams – Assistant Tribal Attorney, Carolyn Gouge – Interim Health Division Administrator, Robert Powless – Public Works Division Administrator, Nicole Boyd – Head Start Director, Rebecca Benton – Family/Human Services Division Administrator, Jeff Benton – Planning Department and community members.

Nathan Gordon moved to appoint Jeanne Gordon as acting Tribal Council Secretary. Seconded by Antone Basina. Motion carried.

AGENDA

Changes and corrections:

1. Remove Chairman Report
2. Add Executive Session after Opening Ceremony to discuss NALEMP Funding with Linda Nguyen.
3. Add Buffalo Bay Gas Station Discussion to Executive Session after Quarterly Reports.

Carolyn Gouge moved to approve the amended agenda. Seconded by Johanna Wilson. Motion carried.

OPENING CEREMONY

Song by Edward Bressette.

Jeanne Gordon moved to go into Executive Session at 4:38 p.m. Seconded by Nathan Gordon. Motion carried.

Jeanne Gordon moved to return to Regular Session. Seconded by Dan Duffy. Motion carried.

Jeanne Gordon moved to obligate \$244,277.15 in settlement funds as discussed in Executive Session. Seconded by Antone Basina. Motion carried.

QUARTERLY REPORTS

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Vice-Chairman Gordon highlighted various meetings with staff, community members and Tribal Divisions conducted in the past quarter. He noted that all quarterly reports will be included in the weekly Tribal newsletter; he had also included links to allow the community to learn more about various organizations discussed in this report.

Jeanne Gordon moved to accept the Vice-Chairman's report. Seconded by Dan Duffy. 1-Abstention (Nathan Gordon). Motion carried.

PLANNER

Jeff Benton presented the Planning Department Report.

The Red Cliff Creek project may be completed by the end of September.

Dan Duffy asked if Emil Road will be graded this year, the road is getting bad and could cause damage to vehicles. Jeff stated the department is trying to keep grading to a minimum at this time due to the dust control that is currently in place. Grading the road would not last long due to weather and the frequent traffic. Community members have reported that Raspberry Road is also in need of repair. Jeff stated grading can also be done to this road but will only alleviate the problem for a short time.

Nathan Gordon moved to accept the Planner report. Seconded by Antone Basina. Motion carried.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER (CFO)

Membership package to the Native American Finance Officers Association (NAFOA) was purchased this quarter. NAFOA offers valuable trainings throughout the year. Accounting staff as well as Treasurer Johanna Wilson plan on attending a training this fall.

The department is in need of two Inventory Clerks. These positions are vacant yet again. If they cannot be filled accounting staff will have to conduct the annual inventory.

Antone Basina moved to accept the CFO report. Seconded by Jeanne Gordon. Motion carried.

TRIBAL ADMINISTRATOR LIAISON

Rob Goslin spoke of some of the biggest challenges facing the Tribe at this time. Two most notably are the Health Center and the lack of staff in the ICW program. ICW has recently hired a Data Entry clerk whom is working on updating and submitting various reports, some that are years overdue. Additional caseworkers are needed.

Red Cliff Law Enforcements has reported a high incidence of meth and heroin related crimes.

The Tribal Administration office parking lot repair is included in next year's Facilities Management budget.

Taylor Gurnoe was hired as the new Education Director.

Rob acknowledged Rebecca Benton and stated she has done a great job in her new position of Family/Human Services Administrator.

The Planning Department Administrator position is vacant and posted.

Rob spoke of the possibility of re-organizing the current Divisions. Jeanne Gordon will send Rob a current organizational chart.

DIVISION REPORTS

EDUCATION

Taylor Gurnoe highlighted data provided in her written report. 65 total applications were received for the 2017-2018 year. Scholarships will be awarded in late September or October when funding becomes available. The library is temporarily closed and will re-open when an Assistant is hired. There are funds available to award two more Job Placement applicants this year. The department has also increased the advertisement of this funding to the community.

ECC

Nicole Boyd stated the closeout of this year's budget is now complete. She acknowledged the hard work of Ashley Peterson, Office Manager. Many events and projects are in the works. The focus of the coming year will be to improve attendance. One significant issue was discussed regarding the availability of funds for classroom supplies. Some teachers have to purchase supplies themselves. Chairman Peterson stated he will look into this.

FAMILY/HUMAN SERVICES

Rebecca Benton stated the Elderly lunch site issue has been resolved. Meals will be served at the Family/Human Services Building while the Elderly building is being renovated. The program is also working to bring the community kitchen up to code before the renovation begins.

Language Camp was held in July. There were a few issues but she felt it was a success. Fundraising will be done in order to sustain the camp for future years.

A number of new hires were done the past quarter. ICW is in need of more funding in order to hire additional case workers. This year, ICW is the lowest funded program due to many cuts being made.

The Elderly Loan closet has equipment to those in need. Items may be loaned and returned when they are no longer needed.

Antone Basina discussed his belief that ICW should focus more on the best interest of the children rather than reunification. Some parents are not capable of adequately caring for their children. He stated he is currently a foster parent to a number of children.

Johanna Wilson would like to see the Planning Department aggressively seek funding for these important programs in order to provide better services to families.

TREATY NATURAL RESOURCES

The prescribed burn will be conducted again in Raspberry to restore blueberry growth.

The Spirit Island project is now complete.

Ernie Grooms is available to conduct air quality assessments to anyone interested in having their homes assessed.

The Wardens encouraged the community to maintain clean yards in order to prevent "unintentional feeding" of bears. The Red Cliff Housing is also discouraging dumpsters and advising tenants to not leave garbage outside their units.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Robert Powless presented the report. A listing of repairs completed by Maintenance was provided.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES DIVISION

There are currently eight people taking the EMS certification class. There continues to be a shortage of EMTs.

Law Enforcement staff has reduced to three officers, which is three less than last year. Meth and Heroin is becoming a larger problem in Red Cliff and all other northern WI. He's concerned of staff burnout. He believes the community needs to confront the problem holistically and put pressure on those using and dealing.

Chairman Peterson suggested having community meetings regularly to discuss the drug issue.

HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION

Carolyn Gouge is the Interim Administrator at this time.

INTERNAL COMPLIANCE OFFICER

Carmen VanderVenter gave an overview of her written report. She has done a number of program reviews in which she audited client files.

TRIBAL HISTORICAL PRESERVATION OFFICER (THPO)

No report available.

Johanna Wilson moved to accept the Tribal Administrator Liaison, Internal Compliance and Division reports. Seconded by Jeanne Gordon.

COURTS

Chief Judge Steven Bouley provide the Courts written report. There has been a drop in traffic citations which may be due to the shortage of officers.

The court has hired two new staff; a data entry clerk and an Assistant Clerk.

Antone Basina spoke of some reports received by individuals who experienced mistreatment at Bayfield County jail. Judge Bouley stated a criminal justice meeting is held regularly with county officials. This meeting may be the setting to discuss these reports and seek answers. Judge Bouley will forward the next agenda and other information to Council.

Nathan Gordon moved to accept the Courts quarterly report. Seconded by Johanna Wilson. Motion carried.

LEGAL

Dave Ujke and Wade Williams presented their written reports. Mr. Ujke expressed his concern on publishing the Legal report due to the content being largely confidential. A few points were discussed.

Nathan Gordon moved to accept the Legal report. Seconded by Dan Duffy. Motion carried.

Nathan Gordon moved to go into Executive Session. Seconded by Jeanne Gordon. Motion carried. for May 15th.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Nathan Gordon moved to go into Executive Session. Seconded by Jeanne Gordon. Motion carried.

Jeanne Gordon moved to return to Regular Session. Seconded by Nathan Gordon. Motion carried.

ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Jeanne Gordon moved to terminate D.J. at will employee as discussed in Executive Session. Seconded by Danny Duffy. Motion carried.

ADJOURN


Nathan Gordon moved to adjourn at adjourn at 9:11 p.m. Seconded by Danny Duffy. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted:



Alana Babineau
Recording Secretary

ATTEST:



Mercie Gordon, Secretary
Red Cliff Tribal Council