

# Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewas

## Regular Council Meeting

October 2, 2023

2:00 p.m. Legendary Waters Grand Ballroom

Chairwoman Nicole Boyd called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

### ROLL CALL:

Nicole Boyd, Present

Bryan Bainbridge, Present

Richard Peterson, Present

Butch Bresette, Present

Nora Cadotte, Present

Scott Babineau, Excused

Laura Gordon, Excused

Ernie Grooms, Present

David Curran, Present

### QUORUM

Others present: Dave Ujke, Attorney, Beth Paap, Bayfield School Superintendent, Amarin Mellow, Land Lease, Becky Benton, F/H Services, Diane Erickson, Health Services, Shauneah Gordon, FM, Stephanie LaPoint, UW extension.

### OPENING CEREMONY

The opening ceremony was performed by Mark Gokee.

### AGENDA

David Curran moved to approve the agenda with changes. Seconded by Nora Cadotte. Motion carried.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Nora Cadotte moved to go into Executive Session at 2:10 p.m. Seconded by Rick Peterson. Motion carried.

### REGULAR SESSION

Nora Cadotte moved to return to Regular Session at 4:30 p.m. Seconded by Bryan Bainbridge. Motion carried.

### ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Nora Cadotte moved to authorize Chairwoman Boyd to sign the Mckinsey Settlement. Seconded by David Curran. Motion Carried.

Bryan Bainbridge moved to approve the FY 24 Legendary Waters budget as presented. Seconded by David Curran. Motion carried.

Nora Cadotte moved to approve the FY 24 IDC budget as presented. Seconded by Bryan Bainbridge. Motion carried.

David Curran moved to approve the Water & Sewer FY 24 budget as presented. Seconded by Rick Peterson. 1 abstention (Ernie Grooms). Motion carried.

Bryan Bainbridge moved to approve the compliance budget with the following changes to line item 5200, travel \$2,500 and line item 5515, dues \$2,000. Total budget \$152,393. Seconded by Nora Cadotte. Motion carried.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Nora Cadotte moved to authorize Chairwoman Boyd to sign increase of \$2,649.98 to COPA #3 M25 WWTP Improvements. Seconded by David Curran. 1 abstention (Ernie Grooms). Motion carried.

Nora Cadotte moved to authorize Chairwoman Boyd to sign K85 Amendment of MOA & Project Summary for shortfall total project award of \$193,000. Seconded by Butch Bresette. 1 abstention (Ernie Grooms). Motion carried.

Bryan Bainbridge moved to approve the August 2023 Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Rick Peterson. 1 abstention (Nora Cadotte). Motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

Charlie Babineau: requesting that a Tribal Council member contact the city of Bayfield to have the Red Cliff flag half-staff for Senator Diane Feinstein. The city of Bayfield said that only an elected official can make this request. Rick Peterson said that he would contact them. Charlie had the idea of sustainable forestry and harvesting the trees in the housings.

Charlie would like to see a Tribal Council Member on the Town of Russell and Bayfield County boards for representation. He also stated that it would be great if GA/TANF workers could participate in cultural activities as part of their hours.

Betsy Hudson was upset and dissatisfied with the lease department. She wants to add her grandson Brandon to her lease with herself and her son Dennis. She has filled out the modification of lease form and was told that was not sufficient. Brandon would need to fill out an application to determine eligibility. Betsy stated that filling out the application is for if the person wants to apply for new land. Dave Ujke told Betsy that the way they determine eligibility is by having the person being added to the lease is to fill out the application. Amarin told Betsy that the modification would take a long time and to move forward with the renewal and add Brandon at that time. Nicole will follow up with the land office and legal department. She will do her best in being timely in her response to Betsy.

Christie Baranagan would like an update on the bike path by Chicago Creek. Her husband had an incident a year ago where he collided with another person on a bike. Will the path be expanded, or other improvements made? Blueberry road is going to be improved, replacing the culvert by Chicago creek and possibly widen the roads. There are many projects going on for the roads department and residential areas will be paved.

Dara Topping, Greg Toppings daughter there to read a letter written by her sister. The letter referenced the concerning issue of the report to Tribal Council of leaking body fluids from her father's casket. Serious defamation of character towards the family. The report was made by an employee stating there was fluids leaking (water and body fluids) from her father's casket and being poured in the front lawn of the elderly. However, it was only leaking water as they had taken precautions with



several layers of plastic separating the body from the casket and the body was in a non-permeable body bag. They did take necessary actions to have the casket propped and localized to one corner to have the draining water collected in buckets. They buckets were not dumped in the front lawn and taken care of properly. Her father's body did not bloat and there was no smell of decomposition. He wanted to be buried in the purest form without any chemical embalment. The allegations were insensitive and ill-informed by the employee reporting them to the Tribal Council. She is requesting that this letter be put into this employee's file for the wrongdoing. The employee did not go talk with the family beforehand. This experience has been very harmful and traumatic for the family. It is a humiliating and hurtful experience of later violence. The family has heard there are policies and procedures being drafted in reference to funerals and they hope that the community is involved and giving input. There are more people doing traditional funeral services for four days.

Nicole Boyd stated that they are following up on the matter and investigating it. Nora and David apologize for what happened and that the family had to endure this experience.

Jim Pete strongly recommended that a formal apology to the family be posted from the Tribal Council. He stated that Facebook can be a good thing and a really bad thing. There needs to be a statement made with the facts and transparency.

Christie Baranagan has shared that she has had similar disrespectful experiences with her mother's funeral service. The community needs a place to have the services without interruption of other services.

Edwina Buffalo supporting the Topping family. She reiterated the need for a formal apology to the family for their emotional hardship. She suggested a liaison for the discussion and development of the funeral policies and procedures instead of division heads. Edwina stated that the cultural center will be another option for families to hold services, but it is not a solution.

Edwina was concerned with there not being road signs on Bear Paw Rd. She spoke to Jeff Benton about 4-5 months ago about the matter and still has not seen signs put up. There is no stop sign or yield sign at the intersection when coming into the chicken coops and there are no speed limits signs. It is a major safety issue.

Deb Topping present to share her experiences with her husband's funeral. She did not want to come, nor did she have anything to say. She was very hurt and upset and stated that the decision fatigue is a real concern in times like this. To have to experience the defamation and cruelty of her husband's services is wrong. Funerals are very expensive, and Greg did not want his family to suffer with the costs. They questioned how much does it cost to die? Greg told Deb that his funeral wasn't going to cost his family anything because he built his own casket, and he wanted his services to be done in Red Cliff (his home). Deb was saddened by their experience but would be willing to help with the development of the new policies and procedures being discussed about funeral services.

#### **APPROVE CHAPTER 40 AMENDMENT**

Rick Peterson moved to move #12 agenda item up to 4a. Seconded by Bryan Bainbridge. Motion carried.

Proposed changes to chapter 40 to include enrolled Red Cliff Tribal Members in the exclusion and removal section. No comments received by the legal department for the 30 days posting. The complaints can only come from the tribal council, housing executive director and chief of police. The complaint then goes to Tribal Court. In Section 10 in the chapter gives a list for grounds for exclusion

and removal. There is an appeal process and there has to be grounds for exclusion.

David Curran moved to approve Chapter 40 amendment changes to include Red Cliff Tribal Members. Seconded by Ernie Grooms. Motion carried. **Resolution number 10/2/23A**

### **ACHIEVMENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Treaty Day Celebration Volunteers and workers. Denise Carlson for canoeing from Bayfield to Lapointe.

### **TURTLE ISLAND TALES CURRICULUM**

Dr. Alexandra Adams presenting the curriculum that focuses on healthy lifestyles and nutrition with a tribal cultural implementation. The plan would be to start Fall of 2024. More discussion is needed, and they were encouraged to come back in six months with a plan for distribution.

### **COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BAYFIELD UPDATES**

Beth Paap present with updates happening in the school district. They had their first community feast celebrating manoomin. Many of the students were able to attend field trips to harvest wild rice. There were about 250 people who attended.

Currently their enrollment shows 420 students. Open enrollment, 56 students currently enrolled out and 16 students enrolled in Bayfield's district.

Priorities:

1. Attendance. They are brainstorming incentives for individuals and classrooms. Classrooms with the best attendance could win a pizza party, ice cream social, etc. The staff have been great in their attendance as well.
2. Anti-vaping- August Gordon (Youth advocate) is starting a peer group.
3. Mental Health Support—Continue to work with RCCHC in having space for providers to see children at the school.
4. Cesa-12 youth apprenticeship and efforts to get students to visit technical colleges starting as freshman and/or sophomores. The district does have an agreement with UW Green Bay with college prep pathways. Students can apply as sophomores and start as juniors with college courses; at the time of high school graduation, a student could have an associate degree.

October 12<sup>th</sup> will be the districts K-5 family night and 6-12 grades parent teacher conferences. The district will continue to cover costs for students who utilize the Rec Center and Mt. Ashwabay Ski hill. The district is in communication with the Library and Boys & Girls club to discuss options for after school programming.

### **TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Rick Peterson moved to approve September 4, 14, 2023 council minutes with changes as if needed. Seconded by Bryan Bainbridge. Motion carried.

### **TREASURER'S BALANCE SHEET JULY 2023**

Nora Cadotte moved to accept July 2023 Treasurer's balance sheet. Seconded by David Curran. Motion carried.

### **M93 BID AWARD**

Bryan Bainbridge moved to approve an award bid to MI Tech-M93 Mercury Study Project in the amount

of \$32,748.56. Seconded by Rick Peterson. 1 abstention (Ernie Grooms). Motion carried.

### **COPA #3 IMPROVEMENTS**

David Curran moved to table COPA #3 improvements. Seconded by Butch Bresette. Motion carried.

### **LAND LEASE**

Nora Cadotte moved to grant special permission and waiver of Section 18.6.2 RCCL to Scott Babineau lease 37754 Bishop Lane. Seconded by David Curran. Motion carried.

Bryan Bainbridge moved to grant special permission and waivers of Section 18.6.2 RCCL to Michael R. Gustafson lease Bradum Subdivision Lot 144. Seconded by Rick Peterson. Motion carried.

David Curran moved to approve short-term residential lease renewal to Shirley and Wade Hanson, 37235 Community Road. Seconded by Bryan Bainbridge. Motion carried **Resolution no. 10/2/23B.**

Bryan Bainbridge moved to approve a short-term residential lease to Dane Gordon, 37250 Pike Road, effective October 2, 2023. Seconded by Butch Bresette. Motion carried. **Resolution no. 10/2/23C.**

### **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Bryan Bainbridge moved to table reappointment request of membership committee members. Seconded by Rick Peterson. Discussion: follow up needed and make sure it is posted to 5 vacant seats. Motion carried.

### **FAMILY/HUMAN SERVICES BOARD**

Bryan Bainbridge moved to appoint Steven Boyd to the Family/Human Services board. Seconded by David Curran. Motion carried.

### **POLICE COMMISSION**

Rick Peterson moved to table police commission appointment and wait until the posting date closure. Seconded by David Curran. Motion carried.

### **APPOINT 1 HOUSING BOARD MEMBER**

Bryan Bainbridge moved to appoint Scott Babineau to the Housing Board. Seconded by David Curran. Motion carried.

### **APPOINT TRIBAL COUNCIL LIAISON TO HEALTH BOARD**

Bryan Bainbridge moved to appoint Council Rep Butch Bresette to the Health Board. Seconded by David Curran. 1-abstention, Butch Bresette. Motion carried.

### **RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO MEMBERSHIP IN THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS**

Bryan Bainbridge moved to authorize membership to the National Congress of American Indians. Seconded by Nora Cadotte. Motion carried. **Resolution no. 10/2/23D**

### **ADJOURN**

Bryan Bainbridge moved to adjourn at 7:10 p.m. Seconded by Rick Peterson. Motion carried.

**Respectfully Submitted:**

  
Nora Cadotte, Secretary  
Red Cliff Tribal Council

  
Johanna Wilson  
Recording Secretary