

**TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE
NORTHERN CHEYENNE RESERVATION
LAME DEER, MONTANA**

REGULAR SESSION

MINUTES

June 3, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: President Wetherelt called the meeting to order at 9:47 a.m.

INVOCATION: Vice-President Ernest Littlemouth, Sr.

ROLL CALL:

	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Melissa Lonebear	X		
Debra Charette	X		
Norma Gourneau	X		
Eva Foote	X		
Torrey Davie	X		
Serena Wetherelt, President	X		
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President	X		
Silver Little Eagle	X		
Nizhoni Friesz	X		
Donavin Limberhand	X		
Gwen Spottedhorse	X		
Melissa Fisher	X		
Total:	12		

Quorum Established

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PRESIDENT WETHERELT: Someone had called Vice-President Littlemouth. So, I got ahold of Angel and Angel was going to try to get some water out to them.

VIC-PRESIDENT LITTLEMOUTH, SR.: Drinking water.

PRESIDENT WETHERELT: Drinking water.

COUNCILMAN DAVIE: Yeah. I'm not aware of any of that. If they did or not.

PRESIDENT WETHERELT: That was Saturday.

COUNCILMAN DAVIE: Ok.

MOTION TO ADD ON BUDGETS, DATA BASE AND GRID RESILIENCE

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Debra Charette.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President	X			
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

11 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	Abstentions	Motion Carried
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ITEM #1 – INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE – TABLED TO NEXT MEETING

ITEM #2 – BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

SUPERINTENDENT ANDREW WERK: Good morning Tribal Council. I hope you had a good weekend. I like your new desks. I apologize. I don't have a written report for you folks today. I don't want to be handing out an incomplete report. I was waiting on a few programs to submit theirs. I'll get that buttoned up today and get it over to you folks by email. I'll just run through programs right now. What we got going on in the last month. Before I do. Before I forget I just wanted to apologize to the council for not making it over to the groundbreaking for your new broadband facility but I heard it went well. For realty, it mostly been business as usual for us. Very busy. One highlight, I guess, out of that is we are continuing to work on our right of way and service line agreement renewals. There's a letter that was sent out to. It should be coming over to the tribe here and to Range Telephone. Similar to what we did with TRECO. I'll just see if the council, you know, wait to see if the council is planning to have a meeting with Range and if you want us to sit in on that meeting or not. I'm sure, I guess, as far as that goes they'll be engaging with the Tribe on that. For agriculture, for range, this might have been my last month's report but our first round is complete. Our second round, we've sent out permits for our second-round applicants that the grazing board approved. We're just waiting for those permits to come back so we can get invoices sent out. Moving slow on the third round but we're going to get that posted today. The third-round advertisement for surplus that we have left. That'll be a competitive bid process and I'll definitely be keeping the board informed but, you know, it's something that we'll be handling administratively at the agency. For Probate. I guess the

other thing that I wanted to mention about Range. We still have those 2 Range Tech positions advertised. Just waiting on any applications for that. HR contacted us last week and said we should be getting a cert on one Range Tech. Just wanted to mention the proposal again. Just waiting on the Tribe to see when the Tribe wants to submit that. Probate, we had an A123 review. That went well a couple of weeks ago. Just been business as usual there in Probate. One of the things I talked to the staff that came out about is the backlog. I'm constantly trying to check on that. It's just really, really slow. I think, you know, when we went through Covid, it made it even slower but from what I understand, they are trying to make some changes to get more Judges and trying to streamline the process. Any updates I get on that, I'll forward that to the council. Just want to acknowledge the fact that it's a long time. Forestry, just been business as usual at Forestry. One highlight. I got contacted by the Region and through central. You know, we had this long-standing logging unit for that Richard Springs salvage and we had an appeal on that and it just sat. Central reached out about, you know, why is it sitting in MEPA. Hopefully, with the Region, we are going to be addressing that appeal which I don't think there is a lot of merit to it. It's not my decision to make. That'll be at the Regional level. Hopefully, even though it's been three years, we can get that resolved. And then move on with the project and see if there's still salvage available through that logging unit

COUNCILMAN LIMBERHAND: I've got a question. How's the Forestry getting around on the roads?

SUPERINTENDENT WERK: I have I haven't heard anything back. I know last month, Councilwoman Lonebear, you know, said she reached out to the FMO, Tracy. Tracy came over last week. We met with the President. I've told them in that meeting to, you know, get me an assessment. I haven't received that yet from either Forestry or Fire on conditions of roads so I can relay that back over to the President's office or the council. I haven't heard anything back Councilman Limberhand yet from forestry as far as any like complaints or concerns about access. So, I'll check again.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: Can you. Sorry. I didn't mean to cut you off. Can you prioritize that so we can get prepared? So, we are prepared.

SUPERINTENDENT WERK: Ok. Well, I'll ask Forestry and Fire for their assessment. Get that relayed over to you folks that we can work internally I guess with transportation and roads maintenance. It's that time of year so I appreciate that. You know, once again, I mean, we gotta be able to get our transport out there and those fire trucks so.

COUNCILMAN LIMBERHAND: Yeah. There was a fire at crazy heads. The road to there is decent but if you get a fire further back in there you're gonna terrorize your guys' vehicles.

SUPERINTENDENT WERK: Yeah. They'll have trouble for sure. Moving on to Fire. Fire has a readiness review this week. The region is, I think, here today so I'll be meeting with them. Tracy and I, like I said, came over, the FMO, last week and met with the President over the annual operating plan. That's something that the President and myself

have to sign off on. We went to it. From that meeting though too, we wanna. Tracy wants to schedule a meeting with even the council or directors. Just so we can have good communication and the clarification on being fire ready. From what I understand there's staff that at times, you know, move over to fire like if we have a big fire; even contractors. But, we just want to make sure we have a clear understanding, like I said, with the council and programs on fire qualifications and that they're coming in ahead of time and getting their qualifications before we end up with the fire. I did get a report over the weekend though from Tracy on the second pond, Crazy Heads Fire. They were able to contain it and get it out. I haven't heard back yet. They're doing an investigation. It was apparently human caused but I just don't know how yet. But, once I received that information I'll relay that to the council with his report. I think it was like, I mean, I took out a picture. I'll send it out. It's out in the middle of water even, you know. Social services. It's been mostly been business as usual for Social Services. One thing, one highlight, I guess I wanted to mention. In May they had their first CPT meeting. So, I'm glad that they are facilitating those again. The child protection team meetings. I guess one thing, we could talk tomorrow, but I'll ask the President and council is to just encourage Tribal programs to participate in that. I'll probably be talking

PRESIDENT WETHERELT:

SUPERINTENDENT WERK: Well, I'll check. I just wanna. I'm not saying that they didn't but I just wanna encourage them to participate. I'll probably talk to Sable to see but from my understanding it was a good thing. It's good for networking. So, I'm glad that we're offering them again.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: Who's coordinating that?

SUPERINTENDENT WERK: Clayton Baxter. He's our acting Social Services Director. The new social worker but he's acting supervisor. For HR, we still have out on USA jobs the social worker position advertised. I need to check if we have or not but we might have moved that over to Edu instead of just Indian Preference because we haven't gotten any Indian preference applications that have either applied or cert. We do we still have social services representative positions advertised. We're currently still looking for two more of those positions. We're supposed to be getting a cert soon from HR for one. We still have the, like I mentioned, the two range tech positions available at the agency. We switched those over to temporary. Just so everyone is aware because the tribe is in the process of contracting the program. We did a reassignment that hasn't been finalized yet for the social services secretary but we considered a reassignment. Once that's finalized that position will be pulled from USA jobs. But, it's a reassignment. Tribal member from here. We're still waiting on a cert for custodial worker. That's been advertised for quite a while. Just haven't received any applications or anyone that's made the cert. Our maintenance worker supervisor. I need to check. I got at JOA. It's an acronym but it's a job opportunity announcement. We sent it back late last week so I'll check with HR to see if it's out on USA jobs now. If it's not, I'm sure it'll be out this week for the facilities manager. Waiting on some classified PD's for an equipment operator forester GS 11. Which is, well obviously they're all new, but the Forester GS 11, we did get some, excuse me, this year and next year,

some funding and that's going to be put into the base for the Forestry Program. So, that's good. We'll eventually have a new Forester position at Forestry. Waiting on those classified PD's also for Range Tech and Forestry Tech. Budget goals. Our agency TPA programs have received, last month, I think we finally received all our FY24 funding. Some of our programs are funded from base and project funding and we're still waiting. Some of them waiting final distribution besides TPA. Self-determination. I know Alicia went to some trainings in the last couple months. She got her lever 2 certification renewed, which is good for her. Just mostly been business as usual for her program. Facilities is just business as usual. As far as missing work orders, we've been working on a renovating vacant home for new hires or possible new hires for housing. The adult detention center assessment. I know the council's been asking about that. That is moving along in the process as far as being scheduled but I just haven't gotten a date yet. I know the council's been asking about that but I even checked with the Regional Director this morning to see if he's got any new updates. I just haven't heard back yet. That assessment will be soon. The last note I got here was on May 22nd. Even with my report I'll e-mail this over to the council. It's gonna be a company called Acana. The purpose for the visit is to do a detailed assessment of conditions within and around the facility including building site improvements, utility base and ADA access in accordance with the site assessment. So, that that's for the adult detention center.

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: What about the youth?

SUPERINTENDENT WERK: They're moving along pretty good. I know when they first came out the first part of May, you know, there was some weather but they're staying steady. They're on schedule. I think they've got pretty much most of the old roof removed. The facility staff, out of the Region, they're out there on a daily basis. Troy, from our Agency, is out there. But, the contractor, I think they're working long days and trying to get it done as quickly as possible. One thing though, I'll note though, we were on a call late last week. Once the roof is replaced though there are some additional work that we got to get done due to some. Which we're gonna get done here at the local agency but it's mostly due to like the drainage coming off the roof and some of the internal damage that was done. We don't have to contract that out for it to take longer. We're just gonna do that with the Agency's facility staff. That's that's all I have for now. If the council had any questions or concerns.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: I'm just. I've been checking my e-mail looking for the list for the compliance checks for behind here.

SUPERINTENDENT WERK: I'll e-mail it your way today. I know you asked me. I guess just verbally, we did send compliance and trespass letters out. We had actually one of the, we want to be careful publicly, you know. But, we had one of the individuals come into the Agency and submit a home site application. But, you know, between myself and Realty, explaining to them that, well, currently you're in trespass and just want you to be aware. Even for the council this has been a priority to do compliance on that area behind the Boys and Girls Club and if anyone is not in compliance or in trespass then we'll trespass them. So, from what I understand, they came over to the Tribe. I think they talked to Colton even about mostly helping removing some of that stuff over there but they did submit an

application for like a lot. Cassandra sent that over to the land board by email. So, I just want you to be aware of that. But, we are. Besides that, one individual, the other individual's doing compliance and trespass. If they don't comply, we'll be communicating with the tribe again. I know Councilwoman Gourneau told me before that I just do the compliance and the trespass. The Tribal Health. It's a shared responsibility to help remove what we need to there. But, besides that person sending over an application, they did say they're working on cleaning that up back there where they have like an old trailer and things that shouldn't be there.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: Ok. Thank you.

SUPERINTENDENT WERK: Besides just that though Councilman Lonebear, ----- does have a tracking log. Like I said with, you know, in prior meetings with our Realty working sessions. I'll just send that track log over to the whole council.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: Ok.

SUPERINTENDENT WERK: We're trying to get ahead of them. But, we're doing a tracking log and lease compliance. I know we've continued to have this. We've ramped it up so I'll send that information over to the council. Really stressing to people that six months, you've got to understand the council scaled it back to six months now and if you're not developing on there, we're going to go out and do. Any reports that we even get, because I know, it's really competitive. We do have other customers or tribal members that come in and say well, what about this lot over here? You know, nobody's doing anything with it. So, we do a check on it and if they're not, you know, somebody got a lease then we'll send out a letter. We'll go out and do a compliance check, send a letter and if they're not, the same process.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: Ok. thank you.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Thank you.

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: Thank you.

SUPERINTENDENT WERK: Thank you folks. Have a good day.

ITEM #3 - MINUTES

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: I'll make a motion to approve April 2nd, 2024 minutes.

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: I have a clarification please. Are we talking about April 2nd?

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Yeah.

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: On page 20, where the Superintendent is talking but they have Superintendent Gourneau in there. I was reading that and I was like, do I talk like that?

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Oh, ok. Right there was a big one, Superintendent Gourneau. Yeah circle that.

COUNCILWOMAN FOOTE: I also have a clarification on medical leave that I had during these minutes this time and I have right over them.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Yeah. I think the secretary was aware of it so I'll have her. There's motion and a second.

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: Yeah, mine was medical to for my mom. I forgot.

MOTION TO APPROVED MINUTES FROM REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING ON APRIL 2, 2024

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Nizhoni Friesz.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President	X			
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

11 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	Abstentions	Motion Carried
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COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: I'll make a motion to approve April 8th minutes.

MOTION TO APPROVED MINUTES FROM SPECIAL SESSION MEETING ON APRIL 8, 2024

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Debra Charette.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			

Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President	X			
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Silver Little Eagle			X	
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

10 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	1 Abstention(s)	Motion Carried
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ITEM #4 – DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE, US CONGRESS (MT-2)

STEVE HELD: Hello folks. Hi. I'm running for ----- seat, Congressional district and have spent a fair amount of time over here meeting with folks. We go back a long way. I'm a 4th generation rancher and business man from Broadus. I have a ----- speech but I think I would rather just skip that. I could tell you few things. High points to give more time for you guys to ask questions. My daughter was the lead plaintiff in the Youth Climate Law Suit last summer. Held v. Montana. Where the kids sued the State of Montana for a right to a clean and healthy environment. The first ever in the world and they won. I grew up over on the Powder River so I'm your neighbor and I remember one of the proud moments in m life. When my dad bought Junior Small and his brother in a roping over there in a Calcutta in Broadus. He just knew that was a big moment. I've been over and I've met with some of the big names on the reservation like Fishers and the Smalls and the Spottedhorse and the old, old traditional name, Wetherelt. I've met with President Wetherelt and it just reminds me that we've been doing this for eternity. We sent one of our people over. He was pretty smart and he married the tribal president. One of my best friends is John Beartusk who married a Crow woman. I don't know if you know John. He's Northern Cheyenne but he grew up in Missoula. He sent a picture that he made to President Obama and it hung in the oval office. I've given ----- and asked for your prayers a couple of times but I don't want to overdo it because I don't know exactly how it all works. But, regardless of that, I ask for your prayers for good leadership and wisdom and thoughtfulness and humility, which white guys are not known for. I hope that you will be thoughtful and give me your strength to go to D.C. and carry your words. With all of that, I just say that I am your neighbor and I'm here to work for you and together we can build a better Eastern Montana for all. I know in D.C. I will need to have tribal representation. It can't be just back home for the times I come home and visit. I need to have people with me who can tell me right now, today, that there's a problem. I don't know yet how many staff I would have and how all of that would work but that is something that you can think about as well. I've been to all the nations but I live over on the Powder River. I come through here all the time. I'm aware of the problems on 212 and the children being killed and people being killed on the roads. The issues with the BIA and police. I've talked with your leadership about some of those issues. So, there's a lot of work to do up on the Northern tier. We haven't even gotten a farm bill passed. Rosendale hasn't even signed the farm bill which irrigates 120 thousand acres up along the highline through certain tribal communities there and several other white communities. We haven't passed a border bill which the republicans seem so upset about and yet their own person wouldn't pass the border bill. It's a big thing. I've gone to Brownsfield, Texas

myself. I've gone to Florida. I lived in California. When I was out in Florida I went out there and caught some big ol' mahi mahi fish. I didn't see one single Puerto Rican or Cuban trying to swim to shore. I didn't find a single block of cocaine to fund this campaign but I did talk to people who had just come to the U.S. I talked to first generation family members. I talked to border patrol. Nobody understands borders better than the people here on the reservation. This is something that might have helped you guys 500 years ago if you had stronger borders but you guys have always been a welcoming, opening people. So, I have a lot to learn and I would love to take any questions and then ask for your endorsement. I was asked, when I was here a couple of weeks ago, to put in an application to ask for your endorsement so that's why I am here today and why I met with a number of you. So, is there anything you would like to ask?

AMANDA WHITESHIRT: Can you say your name a little louder so we can hear.

STEVE HELD: Steve Held. Like held a baby. H E L D.

AMANDA WHITESHIRT: And you're running for Congress? Are you a republican or a democrat?

STEVE HELD: I am a democrat.

AMANDA WHITESHIRT: Excellent.

STEVE HELD: That's a little unusual, right? To have a democrat that isn't a member of a far-left group. I'm a rancher from Broadus. My mom is a

AMANDA WHITESHIRT: Montana has pretty good democrats.

STEVE HELD: I think Montana democrats were in the center of American politics. We are right where the majority of Americans are and I believe that most people agree on most parts of most issues. We just agree. I sat on an airplane with ----- guy, Tyler, and he asked me questions. He agreed with most of the things I had to say and I was speaking democratic platform issues. You know, privacy and health care and all of that and he agreed with most of it because we mostly agree. The person he works for is a little crazy. Maybe we'll get to run against her but yeah. Thank you.

JOHN THREEFINGERS: I have a question. What are your thoughts about the cartel bringing drugs onto the reservations?

STEVE HELD: I don't know as much about it as you do for sure but the things that I've heard just by speaking with people are that members are coming in knowing that it's a sovereign nation. I've talked to cops in Billings and you know they can't do anything unless the DEA get involved and basically unless they are invited in. I've heard that people will come in and start dating a tribal girl and move in with their family pretty quick and they take over. They control that and there's very little that can be done. I have a lot more to learn about that but I've talked with all of the Tribes about their feelings on cross deputations. I

know that wasn't very popular here but there are some ideas about being able to use those techniques on 212. Maybe with the highway patrol. Because BIA is a Federal program, there's a lot of concern here that you have 9 officers now and you could have, I've heard different numbers, 12 or 18 but at any rate, it's not fully staffed. We need to have enough officers because people are making calls to the BIA for support in their homes and they can't get support. So, that doesn't answer all of your questions for sure. The southern border, which is one of the main things that we talked about and Chinese drugs coming through that. We need to manage these borders for the benefit of the country. If that means shutting them down in those ways then that's what we have to do. Also, I recognize that the border and immigration are 2 separate things. My wife is from Thailand. She is legal immigrant. She came in and did all of the paperwork. Came in and did everything right. So, I understand those issues and I've gone to the border. I'm learning about that too. One size doesn't fit all when it comes to the tribal nations. My job is to find legislation that we can pass that's flexible enough so that then, each tribe can make up their own mind about how much involvement they want with things like cross deputation. At Ft. Peck, they love it. At Rocky Boy, you know, they're thinking about it and having some success. At Ft. Belknap, they seem fairly positive. But, you guys have a lot of reason not to be trustful. I have taken your thanks to the Crow people before and I'm going to be over on Yellowtail's ranch camping out tonight working on a Bozeman trail project. I've taken them your thanks for you leading Custer to them. For them leading Custer to you so you could wipe him out.

COUNCILMAN DAVIE: That's a new take.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Where do we sign?

STEVE HELD: At any rate, you know, these are old problems but they are affecting every community in this state. The fentanyl and the drug abuse. My neighbor over in Broadus. You know, old time ranchers. They're from Wyoming but just across the border there. His oldest son was in Afghanistan. Came home. Got a job as a mechanic and got hurt. Took his life. My father took his own life when I was 14 so I understand what it's like to lose a family member to suicide. My neighbors second oldest son, 6 months later, OD'd on fentanyl. He lost his 2 oldest sons. So, this is in a white community too. So, I understand. I've seen these and can relate. Man, I don't know. If you have the answer, come. But, it's a tough one. We do have a border problem though. The republicans are right you guys. We do have a border problem. We keep bringing people in from Maryland to tell us how to run our State. We're bringing people in from California who live in the Yellowstone club but -- ---- trying to run over the top of us. We've got a dinosaur living with people in the Governors mansion. Our immigration problem right now is we don't have Montanans representing us. I'm looking for that native woman. My gosh, you guys are so well represented in this tribal council. I'm looking for that native woman who can run for this seat when I am done because we've got to have that kind of representation in D.C. I would like to bring that person to D.C. and promote them and raise their status with Montana.

FLORENE WHITEMAN: What was the rationale behind Senator Daines when he removed that. Remember President Biden appointed a native woman

STEVE HELD: You know what I think the rationale was? I think the rationale was that he was butt hurt over the whole thing because she didn't come through the process to ask him. She was nominated. She's an excellent person. I just, the other night, had an event up in Billings. There was a guy there, an attorney, who went to law school with her and he said she is so bright, so capable. There is absolutely no reason she shouldn't have been elevated and the Blackfeet would have been represented better. That would have represented all Tribes of Montana better. Yeah. You have more.

FLORENE WHITEMAN: In the Montana Constitution, we already exceeded the formula. Population ----- . That was maybe about 20 years ago. We were supposed to have representation in the ----- committee.

STEVE HELD: I wrote to Daine's. I just said, you look petty. You look like a fool for not supporting this woman. I can't tell you except it seems like and I don't want to be real partisan because we have to represent all people, you know, and I talked to republicans all the time and I have to represent them too. It seems like, so often, cruelty is the purpose. There is not rationale. It's just to be cruel. It's just to stick a finger in an eye one more time.

FLORENE WHITEMAN: Ok. Thank you. My next question will be for our State of Montana and the Montana Constitution, our Native American has already exceeded the population area wise to have a representative in our judiciary selection committee to help select and screen judges for our Supreme Court and Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and so forth. We don't have a Native American. Gianforte lined item the Constitution of Montana. What was the rationale behind that? We can't even do that. Go have her or him line item the Constitution of our Tribe. I was wondering what he was doing.

STEVE HELD: That's on the State level, right? What you're talking about.

FLORENE WHITEMAN: Montana state.

STEVE HELD: Montana state. Yeah.

FLORENE WHITEMAN: Native American population and we have already exceeded. In the Montana Constitution, it states that after a certain number, we can have a native person represent us on the Montana State' Judicial Committee.

STEVE HELD: Yes. To bring forth Judges. Yes, I understand. I wasn't aware of this issue before.

FLORENE WHITEMAN: Well, I became aware because 51% of our Native's are in the Montana prisons and jails all over. That was my question. How can we decrease those numbers and how can we get a representative in there because our numbers have exceeded about 20 years ago?

STEVE HELD: It's a new thing for me and its State and not Federal but I think the thing we have to do is go to ----- because he has beat Gianforte 19 out of 19 times.

FLORENE WHITEMAN: Yeah. I'm not going to vote for Gianforte. I don't believe a Governor should have that power to line item the constitution. That's too much power for one man.

STEVE HELD: We have beautiful Constitution in this state. I think we have the best Constitution in the country and that's what my daughter fought against. She stood up and those kids stood up and they beat the State because our Constitution defended them. But, voting for Judges is really important. Judge Bidegaray and Jerry, over in the west. Those 2 people are really good. Judge Bidegaray is from Northeast Montana.

FLORENE WHITEMAN: ----- *cannot make out what is being said* -----

STEVE HELD: I will even though it's not a Federal issue. I will talk to Rafh Graybill about that. That's where we need to go. The Governor, Ryan Busse, might be running against Gianforte and I think he has really good chance of beating him.

FLORENE WHITEMAN: Well, on one hand we are Federal

STEVE HELD: That's right. That's absolutely right.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Thank you.

AMANDA WHITESHIRT: I have one thing that you might be interested in knowing. In Congress, and I believe it was the house of representatives, were bouncing around an idea where ----- tribes were there. There was a discussion and they asked, what do you need and they said, we need the ability to arrest non-members. It would be nice if somebody could look into it and see where it stood and whether that would really alleviate a lot of the crime around here is to start being able and not cross deputation or anything but give us the ability to arrest people that are breaking the law on the reservation.

STEVE HELD: So, that would be BIA being able to arrest them? Or who do you think should arrest them if you don't cross deputize?

AMANDA WHITESHIRT: The police force or whoever it may be at that moment.

STEVE HELD: I'm very much in support of this but it's necessary for the tribal council to agree that that's what they want to do. So, I would take my leadership from them but yeah, that speaks to the point that the gentleman made to about the fentanyl and all. We have to be able to get those people ----- . I think the risk has been, at least the way it's been described to me, the risk is if we have any kind of communication there then non-tribal police might get access to come in and arrest tribal members. So, we have to be careful how we walk that line. So, I look for your guidance on how to write that legislation. But, we need the flexibility to do that.

AMANDA WHITESHIRT: There's always been a good relationship between the Sheriff and the police department here but over the years its kind of eradicated. I'd like to see a decent relationship come back again. If you are in the process of arresting someone, and in pursuit coming off the reservation and into the reservation, there would be an agreement. BIA cops would take over, they arrest them and white cops take them all, if they were non-tribal members. If they were tribal, I can't remember what deal was there, but some sort of workable solution. We really need that.

STEVE HELD: I agree and it makes perfect sense to me. So, if you guys come as a group, as a tribe with that, wanting to do that, I am all for it. I think it's very important.

FLORENE WHITEMAN: With the Separation of Powers with the judiciary, before any kind of cop is allowed to go in and out of the reservation, it should have a screening committee.

STEVE HELD: It only makes sense and I have to tell you on that note, I've been being asked to run for office for a long time. Broadus, my home on the Powder River, use to be in this congressional district. State and for the House and Senate in the State. When it was that way, it was kind of 50/50 of republican and democrat, I was really thinking about it. I started exploring running, its been 6 years ago or so now, and I didn't because I felt it was important for a native person to represent my district. Even though I'm a white rancher from Powder River, the majority of the district was native and still is again. Even with the re-districting. Brothers and sisters, I gotta tell you, I'm in the reddest district in the State right now. Broadus, where I'm from, is considered the least likely to turn from red to blue of any place in Montana. I need your help. I need your support, right? Thank you very much.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Thank you.

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: Sir, I have a comment. So, this is the first time that I've seen. I understand that you are running for office. What I'd like to request or recommend is that one; if you are elected, that you make a point to come back and visit with us and tell us what the issues are and what is going to affect us in a good way or if we need to respond to things that are going to be detrimental to our Tribe. I would like it if you could promise that you will come back and see and visit with the Tribe instead of waiting 2 years from now to come back and see us again for your vote.

STEVE HELD: What time do I come back to ask for money? In 2 years. I know. I get that. I understand exactly what you are talking about and I think your President said it the most clearest. I came and offered ----- before. By the way, at Ft. Peck I was told it was omaje and then a native brother in Cheyenne told me no, that means pot. So, I didn't want to come and bring you pot unless it helps. I don't know. Serena said it very clearly. She basically said, this is not your words, I don't care about your bullshit. I want to know about what you can do for us. I can tell you that I was the only person elected or running who was here at the communications ground breaking the other day. Without patting myself on back anywhere in there and making promises that I can't keep, I have to drive through here every week going somewhere else. Everybody else in the State who is running for these big

offices, they're back in Helena or Great Falls and they talk about their big trips around the State. I make a big trip around the State every week going to work. I come through here all the time. I'm on 212. My whole life has been on 212. So, I will be back and it's an easy promise to make. I'm just gonna say that that promise doesn't even mean much because it's so easy for me to come and talk to you and I don't want to make promises I can't keep. That's an easy one to keep. I'm going to be talking to you guys. I found out Wade can fix computers. He's the closest person to me in Broadus. I didn't even know about him before but when I came in here on Monday, they were building these desks for you guys 2 weeks ago. I came over to see you guys then and found out, oh, Tribal holiday. Nobody was here so I went over and bought a hamburger from Randy and I got to meet Wade and other people that were there. Like I said, John Beartusk is one of my best friends and I talk to him a lot. We'll be looking for your questions and suggestions all the time through the representatives that we can take to D.C. with us. I've been here the last 2 weeks 4 times more than Rossendale's been here in the last 2 years. I'm pretty sure of that.

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: Yes. That's right.

STEVE HELD: Or Daines, or any of the rest of them. What other tribal leaders have suggested is follow Tester. Tester has done a lot of good for all Montanans and has also paid attention to tribal communities. So, that is one place to start and I know that we got to get Jon Elected too.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: Thank you Steve.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Thank you.

STEVE HELD: Thank you very much.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Good luck to you. Thank you.

ITEM #5 – NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN BOARDING SCHOOL HEALING COALITION

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: In the packets, it looks like it was just information so we'll just go ahead and bypass that.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: We can have her come back.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: I will have Edina contact her.

ITEM #6 – BROADBAND SERVICABLE LOCATION FABRIC (BSLF)

ALISSA SNOW: I'll just introduce us briefly then I'll invite them up and they can talk about their work and how that ties together with what we're presenting on today. My name

is Alissa Snow. I'm Blackfeet and Gros Ventre. I am the currently the ----- of a business called Red Medicine along with Patrick, who will introduce himself shortly as well. We have been here before under a different capacity. We where multiple hats. We presented to you as senior advisors for the democratic party's native vote program. Which is something else that we are working on. We will actually come back and chat with you about the progress and updates on how that programs going post primary. So, we will have some important things to discuss with you then. Today we are here as Red Medicine, LLC which is a business that we started to meet the needs of advocacy in Indian country. We do some lobbying work. We are also organizers and we do a lot of native vote organizing and get out the vote work. We also do tribal outreach. So, we meet with tribal governments to meet the needs of non-profits and other organizations that need to connect with Indian Country and don't necessarily have a connection. Patrick and I have done a lot of work throughout Indian Country with the Native vote stuff that we have done. We are able to connect other organizations with Tribal governments and other tribal leaderships within reservation areas. Some of my past work includes, I used to be the Native Vote Director for Western Native Voice for 5 years. I was with them from 2014 on and then I actually went on to work for Andy Werk over here when he was President for Ft. Belknap. I worked directly with him as the Public Relations person and policy analyst as well as doing some lobbying work for them running some local Native Vote stuff. I went on to work with Montana Primary Care Association. I ran a statewide outreach program connection our reservation areas through insurance. I assisted with Marketplace enrollment and Medicaid enrollment as well before I came back to work for the Democratic party in 2020 and then again in 2024 with the Native Vote Program. Patrick and I are here as Red Medicine. He'll talk more about our program work and what we are here to talk about as well. We'll introduce Turtle Island Communications who we are contracting with currently to do some broadband work.

PATRICK YAWAKIE: I'm Zuni/Pueblo from New Mexico. I live on the Flathead Reservation. My experience in what we're bringing you today is based on the advocacy that we've done at the State level during the 2023 legislative session and specifically on infrastructure investment and jobs ----- that's coming into the State. Roughly 629 million dollars that is being overseen by the Governor's office and State legislatures that are overseeing applications that are going to be awarded in the upcoming year. So, our biggest advocacy during the 2023 legislative session was trying to get House Bill 804 passed which would have required a tribal resolution for any broadband development within a reservation border. We were fought every step of the way by Broadband Montana which is the Association Organization of all the rural internet service providers and definitely understood the reality of the rural internet service providers in the state and how they have a hold on all the tribal communities. Especially our access to high speed internet. Another Bill, House Bill 484, which was introduced by the Democratic side would have included a member of the Broadband Advisory Commission or Communications Advisory Commission or CAC which would have gave Tribes a really good opportunity to have an advocate in their corner as part of the application review process. So, we heavily supported House Bill 484 because it included that language. Unfortunately, Senate Bill 530 which was introduced by a republican senator out of the Flathead reservation area did not include any tribal representation. Actually, it was the Democrats that had to fight for equal representation. At least Democrats on that Commission. So, Senate bill 530 is the republican inspired

communication advisory Commission. Definitely in recent discussions. Definitely in our advocacy stating that these, that the Governor's office, the CAC, rural ISP's need to be working with the tribes. They're more interested in if the tribes do not participate in these consultations in that they're willing to cut out those service areas and not provide development for those and the application for funding for those areas. So, you know, it's a really huge red flag. Definitely for our organization and then the advocacy that we've been doing for tribes in the state that we get the tribes to recognize this and acknowledge that they're not gonna be playing ball this way around. So, the tribes need to be much more proactive in this in effort. So, we're here today and what we've presented to you is a resolution and my parents will go through a little bit more of the technical aspects about the funding that's being received by these Internet service providers and definitely how if things continue to go the way they are this one time only funding won't reach tribes; won't reach our households; won't reach, you know, our schools and other things that we need. So, we'll bring Turtle Mountain Communications up now. The Governor's office is really scrambling right now because we've made them aware that we're making this effort to meet with the tribes and get all the tribes organized. They're scrambling last minute to because they haven't made their engagement requirements as part of this funding rollout. So, we've also met with the FCC recently and they have prescribed to us that we need to get the tribes involved in this matter to correct some of the mapping data that they'll be presenting. So, that's what we're here today for to, as well, is to get a letter of support from Northern Cheyenne regarding the mapping data which they will explain more further. Thank you.

MADONNA PELTIER YAWAKIE: My name is Madonna Peltier Yawakie. I'm with Turtle Island Communications. We own and operate a business. We've been in business since 2020 or 2001. We actually did work on Northern Cheyenne reservation. We did a wireless system design and the towers, it was a tower. And Melissa.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: Yes. I remember you know.

MADONNA PELTIER YAWAKIE: I thought, ok, Norma we never met you, I don't think in person, but we've worked on tribes where you've been. We actually assisted Blackfeet, Northern Arapahoe and Standing Rock in creating their own broadband company. So, our goal when we started, Mel is an electrical engineer. We've been in this industry for years before we started our business. One of the goals that we had when we first started was to make a difference to Indian country. Knowing that some of these companies that serve us, even that long ago, that we knew that these companies didn't operate the way that they should have been doing business. So, today what we have is some information that we'd like to get. We're working with again, Red Medicine Sweetgrass, to do the technical aspects of this advocacy work because in talking to tribes about the mapping data that the ----- Communications Commission has created on your land as well as throughout the United States and how specifically on tribal lands there's high errors of that federal data. We'll tell you, we'll talk about why that is. So, that's what we want to do today. We do understand that you do have \$52 million dollars. Like what Patrick was talking about. The advocacy work done at the state. What we know is \$52 million. that's like, congratulations that's awesome and over time you're going to have to position yourselves. Let me to re-state that. It's important to position yourself. Right now you have Range serving you but you really

want to become Range and we're gonna show you why. Because they get a lot of money to provide services here but through the service area that they have. So, we want to just talk about those things and where this money has existed for years and what it's led to today. Where the Tribe gets \$52,000,000 to address an issue for these rural telephone companies. Every tribe in Montana, by the way, is served by a rural telephone company. Patrick talked about Broadband Montana represents their interests. The tribes so far have been coalesced around this issue with all the tribes thinking they haven't. So, it's important to think like that. Like you have to know that what's in the best interest of all the tribes in Montana. They share your interest.

MEL YAWAKIE: I'm Zumi. I've been working in this industry as an engineer with an electrical engineer degree for the past 30 years. What I do is I design systems, oversee construction, I ----- the specifications. That's kind of like my role in this company. We did work for the tribe here a number of years ago. We brought in the financing to get the wireless system ----- ready. There were originally 14 locations on the reservations that were identified. We completed all their survey work for the locations, access roads, geotechnical work, the soil study. That's kind of to the point that we took it up to and then another country came, you know, took it from that point.

MADONNA PELTIER YAWAKIE: The Tribe decided at that time to work with that company. To have a partnership with. Like Comnet or Choice Wireless. At that time, it was a different time because there was no funding. No Federal money. You know, it's like what are you going to do. So, I think that's what the Tribe considered when they made that decision. The goal was to have wireless service here. I'll tell you a funny story. I mean I think it's funny because some of these are hilarious. We went up to the, in doing the tower sighting, we went up to where you have a, and maybe there's fire, you have a look out.

MEL YAWAKIE: It's for Forestry. I believe it's like a fire lookout tower.

MADONNA PELTIER YAWAKIE: There was a guy up there. He asked us what we were doing up there and we said we were doing tower sighting. He said yeah, we have really terrible service down here, you know, like on Northern Cheyenne. He said but what I do, is he said, I come up here to use my cell phone because of the high elevation. So, you can always try that. So, what we're here to talk about today is the Federal Communication Commission. You know what I would suggest is get to know this agency as a Tribe. Not your consultant, as a Tribe. That your interests are going to be better identified. That your support is necessary for what you want from the FCC. So, what we're talking about today is the National Broadband mapping data and tribal nations located within the state of Montana. The Federal Communication Commission, the FCC updates the broadband data collection efforts and that's underway right now. They have been doing it like based on every six months. The RBCA, known as the Rural Broadband Association represents the interests of rural telecommunication companies that include Range Telecom. So, when they're coming to meet you, they're doing a lot of work to safeguard their area here. I don't know what kind of conversations, of course, that you've had with them but Range Telecom, they have an interest here and I'm going to show you why. These companies and they're ----- consultants are meeting with the FCC to represent their interests right now. That's kind of like, I heard

one, I think it was Norma that talked about representing, you know like, these people representing your interests. That's where I hope that what you see here today is this is in your interest and we're coming here to inform you of something that's very important that you may not be aware of. These recommendations that are coming from these rural telephone companies include reviewing the use of BBC, this broadband data collection data, in making better informed decisions that affect broadband funding and policy. That funding, just like some of you have been in the political arena for a long time. You don't do anything with the policy unless there's funding associated with it. So, that's the same with this. If these maps are wrong, that's gonna affect the funding that's available to you. Again, I say, I know that you received a lot of funding here but, sometimes, some of these tribes that we were working with, they're actually, because there haven't been investments in these large ----- tribes for years, it's going to be a lot. It could be more than \$52 million that you may need. Just keeping that open mind that may be all that you need but it could be that you might need more. So, what we're talking about is tribal participation and representing your interests and in the BBC happening today that interest in tribal participants is limited.

MEL YAWAKIE: I'm sitting here wondering how many of you have heard about the broadband data collection? BDC map or the FCC Broadband map?

MADONNA PELTIER YAWAKIE: That data, it's for the whole United States and all it's territories. What the Federal Government, through the FCC, has been working on for several years is to identify every location in the areas that has broadband and that doesn't have broadband. That's unserved and underserved. So, we are going to show you where your locations are. Maybe you've already seen those but how your data is represented on the Federal Communications Commission.

MEL YAWAKIE: I was just going to add to that is FCC used a consultant to create these locations, to identify these locations. Just to kind of make it clear so that everybody understands what these locations are. Their broadband service exists today and it's a location that can, in the future, connect to broadband service. So, within this reservation, what they identified was 1,360 locations that receives broadband today or has the capability or should be connected to broadband. So, there's that data and we'll talk a little bit more about how Range comes into the picture of identifying those locations.

MADONNA PELTIER YAWAKIE: The way that the FCC has collected through their consultant, CrossQuest. Of course, a consultant represents the federal government, so all of this has the blessing of the FCC. We've worked on correcting this data with other Tribes that we work with where there's high incidents of errors which could affect their funding. When Mel started to dig in, what he noted was that, what the FCC consultant, and we actually had a call with them and they acknowledged that they used County data instead of the BIA data.

MEL YAWAKIE: So, when we started looking at and analyzing these locations specifically on the reservations, what FCC's consultant, they used partial boundaries which the counties maintain. Of course, everybody knows here that it's BIA that maintains trust allotted fee lands. Those boundaries don't line up with what the counties maintain. The

county's purpose of maintaining the boundaries and data is for tax purposes. They don't have any type of education about the land that is in trust or allotted. So, being that these boundaries don't actually match up introduced a lot of error in finding these locations. So, how that impacts tribes is that we've found missing locations, we identified locations that aren't eligible or they're not valid locations. There's actually lakes and ponds that they've identified as locations within the reservations. So, that's how we kind of seen it throughout the State of Montana because the State does maintain what they call cadastral maps that identify these boundaries. But, of course, again, that's something that the counties are keeping track of which really don't align with Tribal lands.

MADONNA PELTIER YAWAKIE: All this information is in the, you received a letter. We sent information. Alyssa did you forward the letter that we were seeking support from.

ALYSSA SNOW: Yes, I did send the letter,

MADONNA PELTIER YAWAKIE: And the resolution. So, all of the details on that particular, previous slide, it's in that letter. If you take time to read it, you'll know we consider our issues for that. But I want to go back to, you know, just as a tribal person, myself as an Indian woman. People could say whatever the most important thing is. Obviously Northern Cheyenne, something that is very important to you is having 99% ownership of your land. That's what we're talking about here. The way that mapping data. The Federal government is digitizing all aspects of land. So, if somebody doesn't have all the information, what do they do. And they've done an analysis to identify every location where there's a house and business. If you take a look at that letter, all of this information is detailed in there and what we're seeking your support for. And while we're asking is we've met with the FCC. Unless tribes collectively respond to this issue, the FCC will slowly address it. Has anyone tried to make some change and you know that someone has delayed it, delayed it and by delaying it, it will never get addressed. Well, at the same time, you have other companies, like Broadband Montana, this national telecommunication cooperative association. The rural telephone companies are going in and they're talking about their interests. So, now this is Tribal interest, again, if you take a look at that letter, we hope that you'll pass a resolution that authorizes the Northern Cheyenne to sign off on that letter. That's what our goal is here today.

MEL YAWAKIE: I just want to point out that last line here. This mapping shows that all of the locations, in terms of ----- that I mentioned, 52%, 53.9% have identified as being businesses versus residential.

MADONNA PELTIER YAWAKIE: One of our concerns about them with this data having businesses associated with your 11 hundred ----- is that at some point someone will use, some entity will refer to this information because they site each other. Are 53% of the people that live here, do they have home based businesses? Would you say that. It's an error and by having that available at the federal level at the FCC where these companies have done locating your homes and businesses here, they're saying 53% of them are businesses. It's really ----- your information and so we're asking them to correct that as well. I put in that letter. What that indicates is that our tribal lands are thriving with vibrant

economies, and we know they are not. That really helps shape what we do and the actions that we take when we use correct information. What Patrick talked about was the \$629 million funding at the State. He kind of went through that pretty well because right now that ----- is moving and the application, I think it was sometime in June. Like I said, in particular, with Northern Cheyenne, if you believe the funding that you have is going to fund everything that you need, then you are in good shape. But, if you believe that there's a possibility that there's more funding needed for something that wasn't considered, this ----- program is where that next round of funding is coming from through the State of Montana. The application, this was the second round of funding for the Tribal Broadband ----- Program. We'll just go through that because you got that funding. Or the first round. We actually were at the meetings where Patrick was doing his work in advocating for Tribal participation. One of first things which I thought was really interesting is they noted that the Tribe's had already received all this funding. So, they are paying attention to you.

MEL YAWAKIE: So, I mentioned about the mapping locations, which is referred to as the broadband service locations. So, what all the rural service companies do, like Range, they identify locations that they provide a type of technology. They are showing her on this map that they provide fiber, very limited number of fiber. They provide 146 locations with fiber and the rest are identified as underserved or unserved and those are BSL locations. This map is just showing in red that is unserved. That means that those speeds are 10 megabytes like down and 1 megabyte up. The yellow ones are, they're reading 25 down, 25 megs down, 3 up. So, what we're seeing here is those locations look acceptable because we know that Range Telephone does not have good broadband service here so that's why you see a lot red. I'm going to take an educated guess that there's more than that because of the missing locations what we had talked about earlier. You know, the FCC not identifying all these locations so I would take an extra guess that there's more red dots. There should be more red dots here. As far as Northern Cheyenne, they're in a good position because this information is being used with other tribes challenging them indicating that they already receive broadband. In some cases, you know, the NTIA funding that was already awarded, they are looking into those and looking at taking some of that funding back. Just based on what I see here, this Tribe is in a pretty good position because Range has filed these locations that don't have broadband and it's pretty evident here by this map. There's probably a lot more locations and it's something that Range may come back and say, we're already providing broadband at some of these locations that you're going to be building out. So, it's good that the Tribe's participate and correct these errors so that you're not challenged by Range down the road.

MADONNA PELTIER YAWAKIE: But ultimately, the source of funding. A lot of Tribes got a letter from NTIA that they were going to review their grant awards and we don't know which Tribe's those are. I don't know if Northern Cheyenne got one of those letters. Ok. But some Tribes did where they said they consider this, you know, that they were self-certified and they were going to dig into the details. Ultimately, this is the details with errors that don't show. We believe it doesn't show all of your locations and there's work that would need to be done so that map reflects your data.

MEL YAWAKIE: In order to update these maps, it's an ongoing process. There's 2 parts to it. What they call the fabric. Which is all the locations that's been identified. What the TSP's provide is called availability data. That's where they identify where they can service the speeds and the technologies. So, it's an ongoing process for both of those sets of data, the fabric itself. Those can't be changed by the ISP's. They only input where they have the services. It's really the Tribe that will need to -----, Range is not going to put any resources and time into correcting that map. The burden really becomes the Tribes in having to do that. That's what we're presenting to the FCC as well.

MADONNA PELTIER YAWAKIE: What we've done is pull all the information. Like I said, all the Tribes in Montana are served by rural telephone companies. Northern Cheyenne is served by Range. It was the second quarter of this year. Northern Cheyenne got \$5,545,588.00 of funding to support their broadband deployment and operations in their service area. Their service area is larger than your reservation but it includes your reservation. When you think of the money that they received over the years. I'm just thinking as you're working on this project, they're very interested in what you guys are doing. They may have requested meetings. This is something that you need to know about them. They've been getting this money for years and the investments obviously haven't gone to Northern Cheyenne. Unless they talked to you about this money, they're not divulging anything to you. So, they want a safeguard their position here. But, ultimately, as I told you, we work with other Tribes where each of them has had a different strategy depending on what the situation is. Ultimately what you end up doing is acquiring their service area so you position yourself as the incumbent and that you start to receive ----- like these subsidies to support these ongoing operations because you need to start looking in the future. The revenue that you receive from your people will not be enough to sustain that business. That's the other part of the equation of the FCC is that the Tribes who are considering deploying. If these rural telephone companies, and they all have, like if you look down, all that's the big numbers right there where they've been receiving Federal money to support deploying on Indian Reservations and they haven't used it on reservations, except one. That one is kind of, it's unique. Like something must have happened between that Tribe and that company. But, there's a triangle operating on Rocky Boy where they deployed a lot of fiber there. That's kind of unique. Ultimately, those are things, if you don't know about this Federal money and how Range gets it, whatever they're trying to work with you. Ultimately, what you want to do is acquire their service area. It takes time to do that. Ultimately, it's going to take time to build your business. It's going to take time to get customers. It's going to be a transition. We wanted to bring that to your attention.

MEL YAWAKIE: Just want to make a statement too. I know you're going to be building out this fiber broadband network with that \$52 million but what you may want to consider and I'm sure this has to be part of the plan is that you acquire this area. We assisted Blackfeet in doing just that. Not only did we assist them in getting that NTIA funding but we actually assisted acquiring their area and that's where the funding that we're talking about here. The high cost support as well as the life line support. That's in addition to the NTIA funding that the Blackfeet tribe is getting because they acquired their area. It became the incumbent carrier provider and got that status to receive this support that we're talking

about. This ----- funding, which is totally separate from the NTIA one-time funding that the tribe here received.

MADONNA PELTIER YAWAKIE: Any questions or comments?

ALYSSA SNOW: So, just wanted to be clear that we do have a couple of asks today. It includes the letters that are included in your packets. If you have a chance to review them. We understand that there might be a process involved in getting maybe reviewed and approved. We are asking that we could establish a contact person that we can communicate with so we can move this process forward and then hopefully move towards getting these letters of support signed and the resolution passed.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Councilwoman Friesz, she is our broadband contact person. At this time do you have questions or concerns?

ALYSSA SNOW: This is also time sensitive so we are asking that we move quickly on it so we can chat right away or we can get a timeline on how long it will take to get these letters approved and signed.

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: I think we'll have to discuss it. Like you said, get it reviewed. Give us at least a week or two and then we'll get back to you.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: We can bring it back to the floor.

ALYSSA SNOW: Ok. Then I can connect in the meantime to make sure that we still have that communication line.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: We'll get this to our legal and you guys can make contact with Nizhoni.

ALYSSA SNOW: Ok. I'll go grab my card and leave it with you. Then I'll send you an email.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Thank you guys.

PRESIDENT WETHERELT: Are we tabling this?

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Yes.

MOTION TO TABLE ITEM #6 UNTIL REVIEWED BY LEGAL AND NIZHONE WILL MAKE CONTACT.

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Debra Charette.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Debra Charette	X			

Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President	X			
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

11 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	Abstentions	Motion Carried
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RECESS GRANTED @ 11:21 A.M.
COUNCIL MEETING RESUMED @ 1:29 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Melissa Lonebear	X		
Debra Charette	X		
Norma Gourneau	X		
Eva Foote	X		
Torrey Davie	X		
Serena Wetherelt, President	X		
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President	X		
Silver Little Eagle	X		
Nizhoni Friesz	X		
Donavin Limberhand	X		
Gwen Spottedhorse	X		
Melissa Fisher	X		
Total:	12		

Quorum Established

Back to order @ 1:29 p.m.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Item #7, I would like to call an executive session. So, let's take care of this other stuff first and then we can do that one last.

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: We forgot about our updates. Would like an update from the Vice-President about what we are going to do

VICE-PRESIDENT LITTLE MOUTH, SR.: I don't really have an update. I met with the Cultural Commission. The 19th ain't going to be good day for them. I was trying to get ahold of them before this meeting but they are not answering. They are having some kind of ceremony that day on the 19th.

COUNCILMAN DAVIE: I thought it was the 17th and 18th?

COUNCILWOMAN LONE BEAR: The 17th and 18th, right? The day before and the day,

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: No. It was the 18th at Busby School.

COUNCILWOMAN LONE BEAR: the 18th at the site.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: They told them that they wanted to be here on the day of the anniversary.

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: Of the girl, right?

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: Of the doings at Rosebud.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Yeah.

VICE-PRESIDENT LITTLE MOUTH, SR.: Oh yeah, that's what they wanted. But I've been trying to call them since noon time. I'll try it again.

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: Because what we need to do is we are trying to plan. We have good planners here and they are always willing to step up but we need to have some input from you. You need to communicate with us.

VICE-PRESIDENT LITTLE MOUTH, SR.: Is everybody involved? All of us?

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: Yeah.

VICE-PRESIDENT LITTLE MOUTH, SR.: Do you guys know Aaron Iron? Do you guys know him? He gave some land to the Cheyenne's. Remember that guy? That medicine man, Looking Glass. He gave some land to him and to the Cheyenne's at the Battlefield.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: So, Aaron Iron, he is the enrolled Crow.

VICE-PRESIDENT LITTLE MOUTH, SR.: Yeah. He wants us to go look at it.

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: I know they also wanted to meet before the next meeting on the Battlefield. I think that's when they thought we would meet and discuss what was going to happen.

VICE-PRESIDENT LITTLEMOUTH, SR.: Last I talked to them last week, they said the 19th. You guys invited them on the 19th. Some of them might be here but the ----- ain't going to be here. He is going to a ceremony.

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: When is that meeting?

VICE-PRESIDENT LITTLEMOUTH, SR.: 19TH.

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: We were having a meeting with them at the Busby School on the 18th and then the 19th we would meet out at the site, Where the Girl Saved Her Brother.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: So, the 18th was the meeting with them and then we would go out to the Battlefield. On the 19th is when we decided to do the gift giving portion and the stuff out there at the site.

VICE-PRESIDENT LITTLEMOUTH, SR.: At the site? And you are going to feed them too?

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Yes. Well, we were going to do a meal both days.

FRANK ON SPEAKER PHONE.

FRANK: Hello. Yes. Good afternoon. I'm not sure who all is on line. What was the question you had there Ernest?

VICE-PRESIDENT LITTLEMOUTH, SR.: When you guys going to show up here? They are putting on a dinner.

FRANK: Well, I was kind of waiting on you. I did pass the word to ----- Kingman, the Executive Director of the Great Plains Tribal Chairman Association. I did tell her on the 25th the Oglala Sioux Tribe is going to have a victory day celebration that day. So, if you are planning an event on that day I know I won't be able to attend because I'll be running the one in Oglala. I'm sorry, Pine Ridge.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Hi Frank. This is Melissa Fisher. I'm the Seargent at Arms for the Tribal Council. We have all of the Tribal Council members present. The President, Vic-President and Acting Secretary. We are all here in the room. We are planning a meeting on the 18th at Busby School with your group and then on the 19th out at the Rosebud Battlefield.

FRANK: 18TH

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: 18th and 19th of June.

FRANK: Of June. Ok. Let me find a pencil. So, the 18th a celebration in Busby?

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: So, 18th we'll be meeting. We wanted to invite the Forest Service or the National Park Service to the meeting and then on the 19th, we'll go out to the site. So, we'll have like a luncheon on the 18th and a meeting and then on the 19th we'll do the celebration out at the battlefield.

FRANK: So, meeting on the 18th and 19th is a site visit with National Forest Service.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Yeah. On the 18th we are going to try to get them there. Not the Forest Service but the National Park Service.

FRANK: So, National Park Service on the 18th also.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Yeah.

FRANK: Ok and then the 19th is the site visit. I'm not sure on that date. The 19th, your showing the Tribes the site?

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Yeah.

FRANK: That's just the Tribes, right? No National Forest.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: No. No forest guys. National Park. We'll have them on Thursday. We'll try to get them there on Thursday to the meeting and then we'll do the site visit on the 19th.

FRANK: Ok. Are you still doing something on the 25th?

VICE-PRESIDENT LITTLE MOUTH, SR.: Yeah. We have a commemoration on the 25th. Did you say you had something on the 19th?

FRANK: That's what I'm trying to look up here real quick but I don't have my schedule with me. I'm not in South Dakota. I'm in North Carolina at the National Congress of American Indians. Can I get back to you? I did give the information to the Executive Director and she said she was going to push that information out to the Tribes.

VICE-PRESIDENT LITTLE MOUTH, SR.: Yeah. That's what she said this morning. I'm still waiting on her email.

PRESIDENT WETHERELT: We are going to send out invitation and they can RSVP then we'll know who's all going to be coming.

FRANK: Some of the Chairmen are up here at the NCAI.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Just get their address and we'll send them out. The invites. They can RSVP.

VICE-PRESIDENT WETHERELT: We will just send out invites.

FRANK: Ok. As soon as I hear something back, I'll call you Ernest. I should be back in the area by Thursday. Thursday the crazy horse ride comes in. That starts from Ft. Robinson to Pine Ridge. They come in and that kind of kicks off the pow wow for Friday. Saturday and Sunday which is our Veteran's pow wow.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Ok. Thank you.

VICE-PRESIDENT LITTLEMOUTH, SR.: Thank you for answering.

FRANK: I should be in the area on Thursday. I'll definitely get you and answer by then.

VICE-PRESIDENT LITTLEMOUTH, SR.: Ok. Have a good day. Talk to you later.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: I guess, maybe, we just wanted an update on the meeting or the scheduled day. Did we get the information on the meeting in general down there? Or are we good there.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: You mean what they met on?

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Yeah.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: No. That's the update, I guess. Right? What came out of the meeting is what we wanted to know as far as the consultation goes.

VICE-PRESIDENT LITTLEMOUTH, SR.: What consultation? Little Bighorn?

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: Yeah.

VICE-PRESIDENT LITTLEMOUTH, SR.: Well, we can't really get anywhere with that guy. We've been trying to get something going with him. His name is Dustin ----- . What we are trying to do is put the Cheyenne's back up there. This last time I walked in on a zoom meeting. In that battle there was only 6 Crow scouts and none of them died. There were 7 Cheyenne's that got killed. The Sioux's, I don't know how many died in that battle. But they want people to be the lead, if they find something. They are going to demolish that building after our celebration. If they find something, they want. What we're trying to do is we want our tribe to be the lead. We want our tribe to be up there. We want to have a say so in that new building because this was a world class battle. It's known all over the world. They just want to make it the same footprint. I think we can make it bigger. Have more Cheyenne's shown in there. Plus, the Sioux. We only have little corners there. It's mostly Crow in that visitor's center. I'm trying to get Cheyenne's and Sioux's name back in that battle. This was our battle. It ain't the Crows battle. It might be on the Crows land but it's the Cheyenne and Sioux battle. That's what I'm trying to do.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: So, from what they discussed at the meeting in South Dakota was that the plans are already complete. Right?

VICE-PRESIDENT LITTLE MOUTH, SR.: No. That's why I've been asking to come over and support us.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: Well, that was our question. Who did they send letter to for consultation? Because we weren't aware of it until we got to Rapid City.

VICE-PRESIDENT LITTLE MOUTH, SR.: Consultation? They were just having a meeting.

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: Who is they?

VICE-PRESIDENT LITTLE MOUTH, SR.: The ----- Chairman Association.

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: I'm more interested in what has the Park Service been doing. What have they been doing for the Tribe.

VICE-PRESIDENT LITTLE MOUTH, SR.: No one's been going over there. I just found out about it from Conrad. So, we need a little more participation at these consultations. So, that's why I started going.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: See, that's where we were

VICE-PRESIDENT LITTLE MOUTH, SR.: I'm real Cheyenne you guys. I don't know about you guys but I care about our history. I think you guys should be looking into

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: That's why we're asking because somebody in this building got letters saying we're having a consultation meeting and we weren't aware of it.

VICE-PRESIDENT LITTLE MOUTH, SR.: It's blowing up now. It's going to be something huge.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: Yeah. It needs to be. It should have been from the very beginning.

VICE-PRESIDENT LITTLE MOUTH, SR.: It was supposed to have been a long time ago.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: Yeah.

PRESIDENT WETHERELT: Let me step in here. THPO was representing us until Ernest got involved then they kind of stepped back.

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: THPO should have come to you and to us.

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: Who's the governing body?

PRESIDENT WETHERELT: Yeah.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: From what I was told, THPO wasn't even in the meeting. It was Conrad. It was Conrad that was in the meeting and he came to Ernest or Eugene or whoever and say, hey, we need to pay attention here, basically. Which we should have been in the first place and now we're at the point where you're going through consultations. They consider every meeting a consultation. They have that documented. So, all these consultations took place without input. So, now here we are. We're going to rally. We're going to oppose what their doing but we should have done it in the very beginning. That's the point.

VICE-PRESIDENT LITTLE MOUTH, SR.: Well, you see. They're not asking these other Tribes. They say they are but the Park Services say other Tribes are involved. Maybe like the 3rd or 4th one I went to, they said the Cheyenne's are the only ones making noise.

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: The 4th one you went to.

VICE-PRESIDENT LITTLE MOUTH, SR.: That's why I'm asking the Sioux's to try to get involved.

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: We just want to be aware too because like we said, we'll help you. That's what we're trying to do with this meeting also.

VICE-PRESIDENT LITTLE MOUTH, SR.: Well, why you arguing with me?

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: We weren't arguing with you.

VICE-PRESIDENT LITTLE MOUTH, SR.: We would like to get involved. That is all you have to say.

COUNCILMAN DAVIE: We are going to question why we weren't invited to meetings. Why we weren't

VICE-PRESIDENT LITTLE MOUTH, SR.: I told you. I said I just got on their agenda over there to just ask for help. It wasn't a consultation that I asked for over there. I just asked them where it was at. Trying to get out names put back in that battlefield.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: I think even Conrad. They probably still contacted Conrad because

VICE-PRESIDENT LITTLE MOUTH, SR.: Leave Conrad out of it.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Well, they probably contacted him to be there because of his position not knowing that somebody else has taken over that position. I mean, even just notifying as soon as you got word of the meeting, email out to 10 council reps.

VICE-PRESIDENT LITTLEMOUTH, SR.: That's the meeting I went to when these guys showed up.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: But they didn't even know what was going on. They just

VICE-PRESIDENT LITTLEMOUTH, SR.: I didn't even know they were going to put on a ceremony for us. It was just supposed to be a meeting to let us talk with them but they put on a whole ceremony. Man, it was awesome.

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: It was. It was good. We're just saying

COUNCILWOMAN FOOTE: Can I say something?

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: I have a recommendation.

COUNCILWOMAN FOOTE: I didn't know about it either. Cultural Commission. They were going. They asked me, are you going? I shared it with Gwen. I asked Gwen, I wonder what Torrey's doing, if he wants to go.

COUNCILMAN DAVIE: Was this the last one. Just a couple of weeks ago.

COUNCILWOMAN FOOTE: Yeah. In Rapid City.

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: That was the one at Bear Butte. Right?

COUNCILMAN DAVIE: No. There's been a

COUNCILWOMAN FOOTE: This last one.

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: Oh, this last one.

COUNCILWOMAN FOOTE: Yeah. This last one when I went. So, that's how I found out was through Cultural Commission. Because, we are liaisons over there. So, I asked Gwen. She had a graduation to go to. Then I asked Gwen, I wonder if Torrey wants to go. It was last minute. He has to hustle for the checks. Cultural Commissioners. When we got over there, it was the end of that health conference they had in Rapid City. So, they were already there and they wanted to meet them about this battlefield. What they said was, they didn't know they were going to excavate that road. They were going to tear it up. They got a letter after the fact about what they were going to do at the battlefield. So, we met who was there, I think there was 3 of them.

VICE-PRESIDENT LITTLEMOUTH, SR.: 4 of them plus that one that showed up later.

COUNCILWOMAN FOOTE: Yeah. The rest kind of left. We met with them and we told them they're going to dig that. They're going to make that road. Cultural Commission was concerned about when they dig it up. We need THPO there. We need to be all there in case they

dig up remains. They might be Cheyenne remains or Sioux remains. The Sioux said that they would be there. They want to be there. Ernest told them that they need to get more involved with that battlefield. You know, we need your support. Need your support on this and we got Faron Iron on the Zoom. He said that he gave Cheyenne's some land kind of south of the battlefield there. He wanted it to be used as a campground so we can camp during these events that we have at the battlefield. That we can camp there. He told the Sioux's that too. He said, use it for a camp area. We used to camp over there but we can't camp over there anymore. We do it in Busby. That's what they talked about. It was mostly about them re-doing that road and that battlefield center. What's underneath there? So, that's what we're concerned about.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Well, this is informational to us because we don't know anything. We don't ever get updates from

VICE-PRESIDENT LITTLE MOUTH, SR.: You guys are talking about how they treated us over there. They treated us real nice. I know you guys are going to do the same thing but this is about the demolishing of the battlefield.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: I think we just wanted an update on what was going on because we all weren't aware of what went on.

VIC-PRESIDENT LITTLE MOUTH, SR.: This is what I'm trying to get at. You guys going to host them and everything? They treated us good. My concern is what they're going to do with the building over there and the artifacts. Where are our artifacts? That's what we don't know anything about that. Where did they send them? Where are they right now? That's what I've been trying to find out.

COUNCILMAN DAVIE: We would know something about it if we had somebody tell us about it. I can't read your mind. I can't read Cultural Commissions mind. I can't read anybody's mind. I'm not

VICE-PRESIDENT LITTLE MOUTH, SR.: Because you never been in a ceremony before, that's why.

COUNCILMAN DAVIE: Oh, are we going to go there Ernest?

VICE-PRESIDENT LITTLE MOUTH, SR.: Yeah.

COUNCILMAN DAVIE: Ok. Alright. So, I guess I'm not a true Cheyenne then. Right?

VICE-PRESIDENT LITTLE MOUTH, SR.: It don't look that way to me.

COUNCILMAN DAVIE: Ok. Alright.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Hey. Hey. That's enough now.

COUNCILMAN DAVIE: Alright.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: That's enough.

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: I have a recommendation.

COUNCILMAN DAVIE: I have a recommendation too.

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: Because this is so important to Northern Cheyenne's and to our history, we need to send a formal letter to the National Park Service to make them do meaningful consultation with the Tribe on anything that has to do with that building, the roads, the artifacts, the story that is going to be told when they rebuild. They are required to consult with the Tribe's and if they haven't been then we need to step up and say, even if you have to go back to square one, we have the right to decide how that is completed and the story that is told about the Northern Cheyenne's that were a part of that battlefield. My recommendation is that we send a formal letter from the President to whoever is the director of the National Park Service and whoever is in charge of this particular battlefield.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: I would get that letter signed by all of us. We are demanding that consultation.

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: It doesn't matter who signs it. That's a good idea to have all of us sign but the point is we should get something to them immediately.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: Also, I would like to see a record of their consultation. Who is in attendance?

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: But. That's the point. If they talk to a tribal member, they count that as tribal consultation whether that individual had the authority to represent the Tribes. That's just how they are because they want to get through this. But, we need to make them aware that hey, there is a council. There are people here that are interested in what's going to happen to that site. But, up until now, we haven't spoken. We haven't brought up that we want to be consulted even though that is their job. That is their responsibility but now we need to hold them to it.

COUNCILWOMAN FOOTE: I agree.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: So, that letter will be forthcoming from administration, correct?

PRESIDENT WETHERELT: Yeah.

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: We can have Brian draft something because they're familiar enough with other sites that they can do a letter for us. Brian is going to be here tomorrow. Maybe that could be his first task.

VICE-PRESIDENT LITTLE MOUTH, SR.: If you guys have time sometime this week or next week, you might want to go look at the land. Can set up a van to take you guys out there.

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: I think it would be good if we all worked together on this and try to show solidarity between the Sioux's and the Northern Cheyenne.

VICE-PRESIDENT LITTLEMOUTH, SR.: That's why I went up there and asked for their help.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Thank you.

ITEM #8 – SET SCHEDULE FOR 2024 REGULAR PRIMARY/GENERAL ELECTIONS

COUNCILWOMAN FRIESZ: A resolution establishing schedule for 2024 regular primary and general elections.

WHEREAS, it is necessary, pursuant to the Constitutional Amendments and the Election Ordinance, to plan the regular Tribal election of 2024 for President, Vice President, five Council seats, and two Trial Judges, consisting of a general election on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, and a primary election which must be held at least 30 days before the general election;

So those are the seats that are up for this election in 2024; Tribal President, Tribal Vice-President; council seat for Ashland, council seat for Birney, council seat for Busby, council seat for Lane Deer and council seat for Muddy; and trial judge with 2 open seats. Voter's list will be posted July 5th and the notice soliciting candidates, that will be posted August 2nd. File declaration of candidacy, that will be open September 3rd. Primary election, October 3rd.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: The declaration to file for candidacy will close on September 3rd.

COUNCILWOMAN FRIESZ: Oh yeah, that's the deadline.

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: The deadline is the 3rd.

COUNCILWOMAN LONEBEAR: I think it should include the time. It's usually 4:30 on the day of the deadline for declaration.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: So, it should say deadline, 4:30 p.m.

COUNCILWOMAN FRIESZ: So, correction. File declaration of candidacy by September 3rd at 4:30 p.m. The general election will be November 5th. And that is my motion.

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING SCHEDULE FOR 2024 REGULAR PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTIONS.

Motion made by Nizhoni Friesz. Second by Melissa Fisher.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Debra Charette	X			

Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President	X			
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

11 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	Abstentions	Motion Carried
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ITEM #9 – BUDGETS

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: You have 2 budgets before you. I make a motion for a resolution of the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council authorizing the modification and or adoption of certain budgets for the expenditures of available funds.

Program Budgets FY 2024

<u>FUND</u>	<u>PROGRAM NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
850C	GOVT SERVICES	\$ 2,334,448.00
050	INDIRECT COST POOL	\$ 3,954,821.30
NEW	CELL TOWER REV	\$ 100,000.00

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE MODIFICATION AND OR ADOPTION OF CERTAIN BUDGETS FOR THE EXPENDITURES OF AVAILABLE FUNDS.

Motion made by Debra Charette. Second by Melissa Lonebear.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President	X			
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

11 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	Abstentions	Motion Carried
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COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: I make a motion for a resolution of the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council authorizing the modification and or adoption of certain budgets for the expenditures of available funds.

Program Budgets FY 2024

<u>FUND</u>	<u>PROGRAM NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
553D	SYS Support Services	\$ 3,076.61
162	TERO	\$467,726.99
533B	SYS Training Asst.	\$ 40,816.87
533C	SYS Work Experience	\$ 40,989.22

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL
AUTHORIZING THE MODIFICATION AND OR ADOPTION OF CERTAIN
BUDGETS FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF AVAILABLE FUNDS.**

Motion made by Debra Charette. Second by Torrey Davie.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President	X			
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

11 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	Abstentions	Motion Carried
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ITEM #10 – CONTRACT WITH DATA MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: You have a resolution before you which would approve a contract with a data management consultant. There is a long-standing trust relationship between the United States and the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, under which certain fiduciary duties are assumed by the United States that are rooted in and derived from treaty, statutory and regulatory provisions and govern the administration of law and order on the Tribe's Reservation. As a result, the United States is legally required to provide and properly administer law enforcement services to the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. The United States has breached the above duties owed to the Northern Cheyenne Tribe and its people in many ways, including by: (1) maintaining inadequate staffing levels; (2) failing to respond to calls for service; (3) failing to investigate crimes; (4) failing to refer cases for prosecution; (5) failing to maintain adequate local and regional

detention facilities; and (6) failing to provide adequate rehabilitative services. The Tribe has a lawsuit pending in United States District Court in Billings, Montana against the United States to compel the United States to fulfill its law enforcement obligations and other relief. The Tribe and Consultant have negotiated a proposed May 2024 contract for database management consultant to consult to the Tribe regarding the lawsuit. The Tribal Council recognizes that because of the specialized nature of the unique professional services provided by Consultant and the desire to improve law and order on the Reservation, it is in the Tribe's best interest to deviate from the regular procurement process under Section 1(A)(3) of the Procurement and Purchasing Manual and hire Consultant. My motion today is the Tribal Council hereby deviates from the regular procurement process to hire Consultant to assist the Tribe to improve law and order on the Reservation and the Tribal President is authorized and directed to sign the attached May 2024 contract with the data base management consultant, and to take any actions consistent therewith.

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL. APPROVING A CONTRACT WITH DATA MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT

Motion made by Norma Gourneau. Second by Debra Charette.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President	X			
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

11 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	Abstentions	Motion Carried
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ITEM #11 – SUBMIT GRANT APPLICATION – GRID RESILIENCE

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: He's just going to do a presentation. This is one of the ones that came from Brian. He's going to present that GRID Resilience. It's a grant application that is available.

PRESIDENT WETHERELT: We don't have a resolution, right? In our packets.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: No. It's just a short presentation real quick on the GRID resilience.

OTTO BRAIDEDHAIR III: Nothing to be approved right now. We're kind of outlining the details.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Yeah, but it's a grant. It's available so if we want it, possible action. Brian just wants him to present it and then Brian can prepare the resolution if we're interested.

OTTO BRAIDEDHAIR III: For a little bit of context, the announcements more for the requirements that the granting agency requires. It's just, like, a public statement of what's, you know, like the intent for the grant opportunity and then just to show like transparency accommodation. So, I'll be kind of going through a little bit of the details. So, I guess what I have provided is a little bit of literature for the presentation that you see up here. You can follow along as I'm going through this. -----, the members of tribal council, President Wetherelt and Vice-President Littlemouth and the community members tuning into the livestream for allowing me time to speak today. I'm here to announce the opportunity through the Department of Energy what we're calling the new we grid resilience grant. This grant will play a significant role in our broader strategy to enhance the resilience of our electrical grid system and address critical issues of power outage outages. The grant aims to help us strengthen and modernize our energy infrastructure making it more resilient against power outages caused by natural disasters like wildfires and other and then also a paired equipment. It was roughly about 2 1/2 weeks ago there was a power pole that went down at some point. So, this could also help those efforts there to repair those systems. Funds are ----- by the bipartisan infrastructure law in DOE. It is a noncompetitive portion of funding available specifically to help us prepare for admit agate disruptive events. This grant will help us address these issues. It is just one part of our comprehensive approach to building a reliable power supply for our community. So, we're eligible to apply up to \$309,467 for the fiscal year 2024. If awarded, these funds would enable us to undertake in central projects including safety improvements, grounding electrical poles to enhance safety and prevent accidents, reliability enhancements creating power storage systems for community buildings, to ensure power availability during outages. Also, infrastructure upgrades, refurbishing existing Transformers and power poles to improve efficiency and reliability. Additionally, there's an ability to bank falcate funds and accrue them over a 2-year time frame. This means that we could potentially pull the funds from fiscal year 2024 and 2025 to start identified and approved projects in 2026. The strategy will allow us allow us to undertake more or larger and more impactful projects that can bring about significant improvements to our infrastructure.

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: Do you have somebody in mind that will help you develop this one

OTTO BRAIDEDHAIR III: Yeah. So, this grant opportunity was actually proposed by our legal team. So, Brian and Lillianna are going to help support me and basically, I guess, the development of this through different types of proposals and different project ideas. Which I plan to take to everybody's offices and try to get a good idea. For the amount of funding for this first year, it could potentially fix 5 power poles. But, if we were able to pull that money and apply for, say, 2025 which is still noncompetitive, we can adjust or, I guess, address more power lines out there or whatever the approved projects or you know projects that are suggested.

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: And, is it gonna be focused on power poles?

OTTO BRAIDEDHAIR III: That's just kind of one option but that would be the narrative for this because they're not really asking for a lengthy story. It's more just like what could it possibly address. Power poles being the most recent one was kind of the talk. The other areas that we are able to focus in on is the physical security for energy infrastructure. So, the solar panels that are on the Littlewolf Capital Building or the battery stored system can be ----- technology to enhance grid flexibility. It's not really for anything new. It's for existing systems that are out there now. We won't be able to install with this system but more address our existing infrastructure at the moment. Enhancing wildfire mitigation systems. I know that we have those, I forget the name of them. The ----- towers I want to say that check the wind and all that kind of stuff. So, this has the ability to even upgrade those if we need. One thing that we cannot use it for is utility pole management, replacing poles, improving inspections and maintenance practices, undergrounding of electrical equipment and cable, reconducting the power lines with heavier covered conducted wire, relocate power lines to less vulnerable, easier access locations, improve vegetation management by the rights of ways, increase trimming advanced tools to predict problem areas, colorization technologies and equipment, insolation protective coating when barriers and fire resistance material for protection. I don't think that one really pertains to it. Fuel load management, larger fuel station, units monitor and control technologies, salt sensors, weather sensors, smart meters, software for increased system visibility, and technologies to enable the use of distributed energy resources. So, the DER's is what the Littlewolf Capital Building solar infrastructure follows. If there's some panels up there that are broke, we can utilize this money to get those replaced. Right now, those modules do have a warranty and I'm currently investigating on how to go about that and get those replaced without having to use this. Rather than have this focus in on other areas, say, like setting up battery storages system for like community centers and such. Adaptive protection technologies, devices that prevent short circuiting and re-rout power to avoid an outage, advance modeling technology tool that'll improve outage predictions. So, there's quit a bit of projects that this could and that was to explain how to get the wheels turning on what kind of projects we want this to be focused on. What it won't do is any new ----- so including distributed generation. So, we want to be able to go install a solar farm or wind farm somewhere. So, the other one is no cyber security measures. We wouldn't be able to use that for setting up an infrastructure for cyber security. The reason why we are kind of ok with going after this is because right at the moment we still do have some projects that are looking to be finished in the next coming couple years. So, the time frame for it to be out by 2026 allows us time to develop which I plan on visiting with everyone here to really understand and get the by in from everyone here to really drive this. Whatever projects we decide to go after with this. So, the application process will be led by myself, the Sustainable Energy Manager, with the guidance and support of our legal team and overseen by the tribal leaders. The application does not require us to identify specific projects immediately. Can secure projects after securing the funding. Up to 5% of the federal funding can be used for technical assistance in TA. ----- restriction to pass along the funds to 3rd party to provide support if needed. For cost matching, tribes may use federal funds such as local assistance and tribal consistency fund, the coronavirus state and local fiscal recovery fund. The way I see it is our success in how we use these funds depends on everyone's input here. I need your ideas and concerns. Community concerns if there's power lines. Well, of course, using that as an example. If there's any idea of how we can utilize this money within our communities,

definitely let me know because this is gonna be your vision and guidance is going to help make these decisions. I am committed to maintaining a transparent continuous dialog with you all. This is our community and every step we take towards ----- is a potential implementation will be done with open doors and open ears ensuring everyone's voice is heard. Applying for this grant is an important step toward addressing power outages and enhancing on Grid resilience, however, it is only one part to our broader efforts to building a safer, more reliable and sustainable future for our tribe. Thank you for your attention to this. I look forward to our collective towards this promising ----- I look forward to any suggestions or questions.

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: I'm looking at your schedule. The grant application is due June 17th. We are not going to have a council meeting again until that day. So, if you're not asking for a resolution today, I think you're pushing it if you're going to be asking for one on June 17th. So, just based on what I've looked at, we're entitled to this but we have to ask for it.

OTTO BRAIDED HAIR III: I'm sorry.

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: We're entitled to it because it's a funding allocation. So, we're entitled to \$309,467.00 so I think we should formally ask for that and then talk about do we want to reserve that or do we want to use that for this year. So, I don't know. Just to kind of speed things up, I think we should pass a resolution today requesting the funds and then decide what purposes we are going to use it for.

OTTO BRAIDED HAIR III: Ok. I'll refer it to my

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: Oh, your boss. What do you recommend?

PRESIDENT WETHERELT: We did discuss it. We discussed it with Brian. I think if we reserved it and when we have a project, we would have more to use. That is what I was thinking too.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Was that your motion Norma?

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: I make a motion to approve that we submit a grant application for a notice that is due on June 17th because it says the Tribe will need to apply every year to receive up to the maximum award allocation under the formula. So, I think we should just go ahead and authorize and let the funding agency know that we are interested in this and we want our formula to be given to us. So, that's my motion.

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: And we use it for what?

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: I'll second it. I think we can talk about that.

COUNCILWOMAN CHARETTE: We'll talk about it later?

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: Is the plan to have the grant application in by June 17th?

OTTO BRAIDED HAIR III: Yes.

COUNCILWOMAN GOURNEAU: Ok. I think we should authorize you to submit that grant application and ask for the funding.

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Can you work with Brian in getting that resolution done and we'll get it approved today.

A MOTION TO APPROVE TO SUBMIT GRANT APPLICATION THAT IS DUE JUNE 17TH.

Motion made by Norma Gourneau. Second by Debra Charette.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President	X			
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

11 vote(s) Yes	0 votes No	Abstentions	Motion Carried
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WENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION @ 2:25 P.M.

OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION @ 2:51 P.M.

ITEM #7 – TRIBAL ENROLLMENT REORGANIZATION

COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: I'd like to make a motion to approve a reorganization of the Tribal Services and the Enrollment Department. With that, I would like to put the disclaimer in there to rescind any resolutions that are conflicting with the resolution. That's my motion.

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL APPROVING AND ADOPTING A REORGANIZATION OF TRIBAL SERVICES AND ENROLLMENT DEPARTMENTS AND ALSO RESCIND ANY RESOLUTIONS THAT CONFLICT.

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Donavin Limberhand.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
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Melissa Lonebear	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice President	X			
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

11 vote(s) Yes	vote(s) No	Abstentions	Motion Carried
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MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING

Motion made by Melissa Fisher. Second by Debra Charette.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melissa Lonebear	X			
Debra Charette	X			
Norma Gourneau	X			
Eva Foote	X			
Nizhoni Friesz	X			
Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vice-President	X			
Torrey Davie	X			
Donavin Limberhand	X			
Silver Little Eagle	X			
Gwen Spottedhorse	X			
Melissa Fisher	X			

11 votes Yes	0 votes No	0 Abstentions	Motion Carried
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MEETING ADJOURNED @ 2:53 P.M.

PASSED, ADOPTED, AND APPROVED by the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council with 9 votes for passage and adoption, 0 votes against passage and adoption, and 0 abstention on this 3rd day of September 2024.

Edina Redstar, Secretary
Northern Cheyenne Tribe