

# Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewas

## SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

December 16, 2011

8:00 a.m. Legendary Waters, Buffalo Bay Grand Ballroom

Meeting called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Rose Soulier, Tribal Chairperson.

### ROLL CALL

Rose Soulier, Present

Mike Gurnoe, Present

Marvin Defoe, Present

Joanne Peterson, Present

Laura J. Gordon, Present

Bryan Bainbridge, Present

Dennis Soulier, Present

Robert Bear, Present

Jeanne Gordon, Present

Quorum

Marvin Defoe called the Business Board Meeting to order. Present were Robert Bear, Tommy Jo Gordon, Gary Gerber, Brian Pierson, and Jeff Gordon.

Also in attendance were Joe Bresette, Red Cliff Housing, Mark Montano, Director of Tribal Operations, Randy Hella, Red Cliff Planner and Brian Goodwin, Planning Department.

### OPENING CEREMONY

Opening ceremony was performed by Marvin Defoe.

### AGENDA

Dennis Soulier moved to approve agenda. Seconded by Joanne Peterson. Motion carried.

### BUSINESS BOARD 8-10am

Marvin Defoe welcomed the Business Board and explained the goals of today's meeting with the Red Cliff Tribal Council.

- ❖ Brian Pierson explain the establishment/corporation/enterprise
- ❖ Randy explained the grant that was submitted to Dept. of Interior and Dept. of Energy (Tim Kane sat with business board to help make recommendations).

Marvin Defoe read the 4 goals being presented to the Red Cliff Tribal Council. The Business Board created these goal/objectives and is seeking Council approval and/or guidance.

- ❖ Develop a separate Tribal Economic Development Corporation.
- ❖ Develop a strategic economic development plan for the Red Cliff Reservation.
- ❖ Establish a workforce training mechanism.
- ❖ Retain continued support for the Red Cliff Business Board by the Tribal Council

Brian Pierson went through the Red Cliff Business Development Corporation Bylaws. In the Bylaws it explains what duties the Board will be performing. Board members will be a majority

of Tribal members. The Red Cliff Business Development Corporation Bylaws would need authority to waive sovereign immunity in order to work with financial institutions. Discussion.

Brian Pierson went through the Charter of The Red Cliff Business Development Corporation. The corporation established under this Charter shall be considered a governmental instrumentality of the Tribe: and its officers and employees considered officers and employees of the Tribe carrying out responsibilities for the economic advancement of the Tribe and its members by the Constitution of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians. Discussion. Along with the Charter, there will be a Resolution. If anyone has any questions they can forward them to Brian Pierson.

Gary Gerber talked on behalf of a Bankers perspective about banks working with Tribes.

Rose Soulier: Suggested Red Cliff Tribal Council review Charter/Corporation and within 2 weeks get comments to Business Board and then have Business Board bring back to Tribal Council at the first meeting in January 2012.

Dennis Soulier moved to adopt the Mission and Goals of the Business Board. Seconded by Bryan Bainbridge. Motion carried.

Suggestion by Rose Soulier that the Business Board be a standing agenda item until the By Laws and Corporation/Charter is in place.

Randy Hella informed the Tribal Council that he had submitted an Office of Energy and Economic Development (IEED), DOI, BIA NABDI grant ( Native American Business Development Institute) in the amount of \$50,000.00. This grant will run through September 2013. The Business Board will oversee this grant. The project goal is to develop a community supported, sustainable and feasible plan for the redevelopment/reuse of the old casino site and building.

Tommy Jo Gordon Business Board seat is up. Dennis Soulier moved to reappoint Tommy Jo Gordon. Seconded by Joanne Peterson. Motion carried.

Marvin Defoe moved to go into Executive Session. Seconded by Joanne Peterson. Motion carried.

Council met with the Membership Committee. Present were Janice Cadotte, Betsy Hudson, Linda Lamoreaux and Clarissa Gokee.

Dennis Soulier moved to return to Regular Session. Seconded by Laura J. Gordon. Motion carried.

Lunch 12-1

**HOUSING BOARD 1-4pm**

Meeting reconvened at 1:00 pm All Council members present. Housing Board members: Mike Babineau, Theresa Gordon, Bruce Topping, Steven Boyd, Laura Belanger, Lisa Farrell and Robert Bear Staff: Joe Bresette, Maxine Babineau, Tim Funk, Jim Farrell and community members.

### **HOUSING/JOE BRESSETTE**

Housing has 3 areas of information for the Council; paperwork on areas was given to Council.

1) Annual Performance report is due by the end of December. If anyone has any comments on the report submit them by email by noon next Friday to Joe and he will submit it to HUD. The report has been posted at the Housing and Tribal offices. The Board has approved the report.

2) Information on the potential refinancing of the 184 loans, the Board went over the financial documents what we pay now, and the savings with a lower interest rate. Brian Pierson will be working with David and the Chippewa bank regarding the Resolutions. If they are required David will make a recommendation to the Council. Refinancing of Phase I could potentially have a savings of \$12,027.84 annually.

3) Tax Credit programs funded 48 new homes, both projects were clarified for new construction or rehab. We still have a waiting list of potentially 70 families looking for affordable housing. Housing has never presented an Operating Statement on how the tax credits are doing, effect on finances and its outlook. Jim Farrell has worked on Phase I and II and presented a financial and balance sheet to the Council with an explanation of revenues and expenses for a nine month period.

Tim Funk gave a brief summary of Phase I and II. We need to redirect funds from ARRA in the amount of \$700,000. The Housing Board has been the LLC on both projects. Phase III will involve new construction and rehab, and we have been discussing duplexes. We need to submit the application for tax credits in March.

Joe stated there are no infra structure funds for sites. What does the Tribe intend to do with North Bradum? Discussion on possible sites on duplexes where they could be built. There is a need for one and two bedroom units. If built these units would have to pay for themselves for maintenance and rent would have to be paid.

Discussion held on CHODO fund which can only be spent on that program. Mike's crew has expanded as have the projects, with more duties for his crew. North Bradum is a priority. Chairperson Rose Soulier stated this will be followed up on. Rehab needs to be done on old housing, new housing, hillside housing. There is a need for a comprehensive housing assessment on all housing projects. The tenants and community need information also. Marvin requested that the comprehensive plan be completed relative to housing with timelines. Chairperson Rose Soulier thanked the Housing Board and staff for the information received and their work on the housing needs for tribal members.

Dennis Soulier moved to adjourn. Seconded by Laura J. Gordon. Motion carried.

Adjourned: 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Jeannie Balber/Kathy Hanson  
Recording Secretary

ATTEST:



Laura J. Gordon, Secretary  
Red Cliff Tribal Council