

Tribal Executive Committee
Special Meeting
September 22, 2016

A Special Tribal Executive Committee meeting was called to order by President Norman Deschampe on Thursday, September 22, 2016 at Grand Casino-Mille Lacs, Onamia, Minnesota.

Invocation: Joe Nayquanabe

Swearing in of White Earth Chairman Terrance Tibbetts by President Norman Deschampe.

Roll call: Norman Deschampe, Dennis Morrison, Kevin Dupuis, Ferdinand Martineau, Melanie Benjamin, Carolyn Beaulieu, Terrance Tibbetts, Tara Mason, Faron Jackson, Arthur LaRose, Cathy Chavers, Dave Morrison.

Other present: Gary Frazer, Mark Anderson, Joe Nayquanobe, Vanessa Northrup, Rep., Fond du Lac; Sandy Blake, Rep., Mille Lacs; Roger Smith, Bruce Savage, Rep., Fond du Lac; Marie Spry, Rep., Grand Portage; Tammy LaRose, Enrollment; Leech Lake; Dale Green, Leech Lake; Caryn Day, Legislative Communications Liaison, Mille Lacs; Leroy Fairbanks, Rep., Leech Lake; Eugene Tibbetts, Rep., White Earth; Kathy Goodwin, Rep., White Earth; Steven Clark, Rep., White Earth; Brandon Brenner, Rep., Bois Forte; Ray Toutloff, Rep., Bois Forte; Corey Strong, Executive Director, Bois Forte; Leslie Harper, Assistant, Leech Lake; Jerome Lhotka, Jim Jones, Acting Executive Director, MN Indian Affairs Council; Lenny Fineday, Legal, Leech Lake; Ken Fox, Executive Director, White Earth; Shelly Day, Leg. Office Manager, Mille Lacs; Nancy Woods, Legislative, Mille Lacs Band; Kim Kegg, Legislative, Mille Lacs Band; MCT Staff and other interested parties.

Gary Frazer opens the floor for nominations for President.

Melanie Benjamin nominates Norman Deschampe for President, Seconded by Dennis Morrison.

Tara Mason nominates Kevin Dupuis for President. Seconded by Carolyn Beaulieu.

Motion by Carolyn Beaulieu to close nominations. Seconded by Melanie Benjamin. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Roll Call vote request by Tara Mason. Seconded by Kevin Dupuis. 8 For, 3 Against (Dave Morrison, Melanie Benjamin, Cathy Chavers), 0 Silent. Carried.

Roll Call vote:

Ferdinand Martineau voted for Norman Deschampe

Kevin Dupuis voted for Kevin Dupuis

Carolyn Beaulieu for Kevin Dupuis

Melanie Benjamin voted for Norman Deschampe

Faron Jackson for Kevin Dupuis
Arthur LaRose for Kevin Dupuis
Cathy Chavers voted for Norman Deschampe
Dave Morrison voted for Norman Deschampe
Terrance Tibbetts for Kevin Dupuis
Tara Mason for Kevin Dupuis
Dennis Morrison voted for Norman Deschampe
Norman Deschampe voted for Norman Deschampe

Roll Call vote count for President: Norman Deschampe 6 votes, Kevin Dupuis 6 votes, Tied.

Arthur LaRose recommended to move forward with other officers' elections. Roll Call vote allows everyone to vote – run off vote.

Gary Frazer opens the floor for nominations for Vice President.

Carolyn Beaulieu nominates Arthur LaRose for Vice President. Seconded by Tara Mason

Dave Morrison nominates Ferdinand Martineau for Vice President. Seconded by Dennis Morrison.

Motion by Cathy Chavers to close nominations. Seconded by Carolyn Beaulieu. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Roll Call vote:

Ferdinand Martineau voted for Ferdinand Martineau.
Kevin Dupuis voted for Arthur LaRose
Carolyn Beaulieu voted for Arthur LaRose
Melanie Benjamin voted for Ferdinand Martineau.
Faron Jackson voted for Arthur LaRose
Arthur LaRose voted for Arthur LaRose
Cathy Chavers voted for Ferdinand Martineau.
Dave Morrison voted for Ferdinand Martineau.
Terrance Tibbetts voted for Arthur LaRose
Tara Mason voted for Arthur LaRose
Dennis Morrison voted for Ferdinand Martineau.
Norman Deschampe voted for Ferdinand Martineau.

Roll Call vote count for Vice President: Ferdinand Martineau 6 votes, Arthur LaRose 6 votes, Tied.

Gary Frazer opens the floor for nominations for Secretary.

Tara Mason nominated Carolyn Beaulieu for Secretary. Seconded by Arthur LaRose.
Cathy Chavers nominated Melanie Benjamin for Secretary. Seconded by Ferdinand Martineau.

Motion by Tara Mason to close nominations. Seconded by Cathy Chavers. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Kevin Dupuis informed the Committee that according to Roberts Rules of Order, this way of voting is wrong.

Roll Call vote:

Ferdinand Martineau voted for Melanie Benjamin.
Kevin Dupuis voted for Carolyn Beaulieu.
Carolyn Beaulieu voted for Carolyn Beaulieu.
Melanie Benjamin voted for Melanie Benjamin.
Faron Jackson voted for Carolyn Beaulieu.
Arthur LaRose voted for Carolyn Beaulieu.
Cathy Chavers voted for Melanie Benjamin.
Dave Morrison voted for Melanie Benjamin.
Terrance Tibbetts voted for Carolyn Beaulieu.
Tara Mason voted for Carolyn Beaulieu.
Dennis Morrison voted for Melanie Benjamin.
Norman Deschampe voted for Melanie Benjamin.

Roll Call vote count for Secretary: Carolyn Beaulieu 6 votes, Melanie Benjamin 6 votes, Tied.

Gary Frazer opens the floor for nominations for Treasurer.

Carolyn Beaulieu nominates Tara Mason for Treasurer. Seconded by Kevin Dupuis.

Ferdinand Martineau nominates Dave Morrison for Treasurer. Seconded by Cathy Chavers.

Motion by Cathy Chavers to close nominations. Seconded by Terrance Tibbetts. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Ferdinand Martineau voted for Dave Morrison.
Kevin Dupuis voted for Tara Mason.
Carolyn Beaulieu voted for Tara Mason.

Melanie Benjamin voted for Dave Morrison.
Faron Jackson voted for Tara Mason.
Arthur LaRose voted for Tara Mason.
Cathy Chavers voted for Dave Morrison.
Dave Morrison voted for Dave Morrison.
Terrance Tibbetts voted for Tara Mason.
Tara Mason voted for Tara Mason.
Dennis Morrison voted for Dave Morrison.
Norman Deschampe voted for Dave Morrison.

Roll Call vote count for Treasurer: Tara Mason 6 votes, Dave Morrison 6 votes, Tied.

Melanie Benjamin asked if Committee could proceed with the other business that needed action while the voting issue is being resolved.

Kevin Dupuis stated that the officers were not chosen- how do we move forward.

Mark Anderson referred to Robert's Rules of Order - continue vote until tied is broken. Lenny Fineday stated that the roll call vote is treated as ballot. Kevin responded; let's get this done – after swearing in of Terrance Tibbetts the vote should be taken until a candidate has a majority. Arthur LaRose stated everyone already talked about election of officers ahead of time and discussed. There have been the same people on board for a long time, lets comprise, we get 2 and you get 2.

Motion by Tara Mason to recess. Seconded by Kevin Dupuis.

Meeting called to order by Norman Deschampe at 10:57 a.m.

Motion by Tara Mason to utilize secret balloting. Seconded by Cathy Chavers.

(1) Cast ballots for President:
Norman Deschampe – 6 votes
Kevin Dupuis – 6 votes
Ballot results – tied

Kevin Dupuis stated that the roll call vote was wrong – re: Constitution. Kevin referred to the The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Constitution, Interpretations & Ordinances was not current, missing information. He then stated that the process has no recourse but to vote again.

(2) Cast ballots for President:
Norman Deschampe – 6 votes
Kevin Dupuis – 6 votes
Ballot results – tied

(3) Cast ballots for President:
Norman Deschampe – 6 votes
Kevin Dupuis – 6 votes
Ballot results – tied

10 minute break.

Norman requested action on Personnel issues, recess for 1 month and meet prior to next TEC meeting for election of officers.

Dale Green said, for years President – you're not acting as Chairman in this position. Norman responded "yes I am." Dale stated according to bylaws you should not vote. Norman stated that it was a roll call vote then went to secret ballot.

Arthur LaRose suggested go back to the reservation governments and let them pick, bring back recommendations and vote on it.

Norman stated there was no issue with it at Grand Portage.

Dale Green stated in your current position are you acting as Chairman or President now?

Melanie requested action on the Personnel issue.

Motion by Melanie Benjamin to proceed with Personnel issue.

Tara Mason stated we haven't followed the agenda, consider before following any other actions.

Norman – Melanie has a motion on the floor.

Melanie Benjamin withdraws motion.

Approve agenda and recess, table NCAI resolution.

Norman informed the Committee that according to the Constitution he is still President – continue in office until successor has been elected.

Motion by Melanie Benjamin to approve agenda. Seconded by Carolyn Beaulieu. Tara Mason Silent, Kevin Dupuis stated it's not carried.

Kevin stated that the President only votes if it is a tie.

Tara Mason stated to follow the agenda. If you're going to deter, agenda has to be amended. Call to order – approve agenda. Need a copy of Roberts Rules of Order. Sec. 5 of the Constitution states Roberts Rules of Order shall govern meeting. I called Roll call because everyone should see how we vote. In secret ballot – President can vote, roll call – President can't vote.

Norman stated that he is asking for advice. Recess until quarterly meeting?

Steven Clark – Roberts Rules of Order – ask to follow Constitution.

Motion by Arthur LaRose to follow the Constitution. Seconded by Tara Mason. 9 For, 2 Against (Cathy Chavers/Dave Morrison), 1 Silent (Norman Deschampe). Carried.

Cathy Chavers stated that she ruled against because the Constitution is vague, all reservations should be represented. There are lots of new people and we have voting power. Give Grand Portage the right to vote.

Dale Green – As a TEC member you are not following the Constitution – soliciting votes – agree to follow Constitution, not different. If he wants to be representative of Grand Portage he doesn't need to be President.

Faron Jackson – Has seen people talk on the revision of the Constitution since the 70's, nothing has changed. Equality for representation. White Earth should have another person because of the large number of members. He stated that Mark Anderson should be able to direct on how to remedy this issue.

Norman withdraws from voting.

(4) Cast ballots for President:
Norman Deschampe – 5 votes
Kevin Dupuis – 6 votes
Ballot Results = Kevin Dupuis, President

Gary asked Kevin Dupuis if he accepts position as President. Kevin accepts.

Cast ballots for Vice President:

Ferdinand Martineau – 6 votes

Arthur LaRose – 5 votes

Ballots Results = Ferdinand Martineau, Vice President

Ray Toutloff asked Ferdinand Martineau if he accepts position as Vice President. Ferdinand accepts.

Cast ballots for Secretary:

Melanie Benjamin – 7 votes

Carolyn Beaulieu – 4 votes

Ballots Results = Melanie Benjamin, Secretary

Ray Toutloff asked Melanie Benjamin if she accepts position as Secretary. Melanie accepts

Cast ballots for Treasurer:

Dave Morrison – 7 votes

Tara Mason – 4 votes

Ballots = Dave Morrison, Treasurer

Ray Toutloff asked Dave Morrison is he accepts position as Treasurer. Dave accepts

Kevin Dupuis stated that we need something in writing on the Constitution & Bylaws. Who represents Minnesota Chippewa Tribe – right guaranteed under Article I. Issues – membership, enrollment, descendants – ordinances – membership not informed as they should be – Secretarial Election, no answer from Department of the Interior. Process – Federal regulations. Tribal Executive Committee get information from members. We represent over 40,000 people. Use resources to move forward. The Constitution is outdated, but it is the only document we have, strengthen or weaken. Violation of Article 13 – Attorney represents Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, Executive Director and staff. When Tribal Executive Committee is in discussion – attorneys and Executive Director listen and maintain. No way should Tribal Attorney speak on Constitution. Tribal Executive Committee maintains the right to make interpretation on Constitution. Let's move forward and agreed to work together. Let's get ready to be proactive – we owe it to our membership.

Kevin Dupuis proceeded with meeting.

Motion by Melanie Benjamin to approve the agenda. Seconded by Carolyn Beaulieu. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Personnel:

Motion by Melanie Benjamin to approve the following hire:

Joel Smith, Director Administration

Seconded by Dave Morrison. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Dennis Morrison to approve Resolution regarding NCAI. Seconded by Cathy Chavers. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Tara Mason to adjourn the meeting at 1:56 p.m. Seconded by Terrance Tibbetts. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.