

THE MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBE  
TRIBAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Special Meeting  
November 22, 2017

A Special Tribal Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 8:52 a.m. by President Kevin Dupuis at Shooting Star Hotel Casino and Event Center in Mahnommen, Minnesota.

Invocation: Ricky White, Murphy Thompson, Merle Deegan and White Earth Drum

President Dupuis brought the meeting to order, providing the clarification that the censure ordinance (Ordinance Implementing Constitutional Petition and Censure Processes) section 9.5 instructs the TEC to act in one of two ways: Exonerate or censure, in which case the matter is referred back to the member's Band.

Roll Call: Kevin Dupuis, Chairman, Fond du Lac; Ferdinand Martineau, Secretary/Treasurer, Fond du Lac; Melanie Benjamin, Chief Executive, Mille Lacs; Carolyn Beaulieu, Secretary/Treasurer Mille Lacs; Catherine Chavers, Chairwoman, Bois Forte; Dave Morrison, Secretary/Treasurer, Bois Forte; Terrance Tibbetts, Chairman, White Earth; Tara Mason, Secretary/Treasurer, White Earth; Faron Jackson, Chairman, Leech Lake; Arthur LaRose, Secretary/Treasurer, Leech Lake; Marie Spry, Committeewoman, Grand Portage.

Absent: Dennis Morrison, Secretary/Treasurer, Grand Portage

Others Present: Gary Frazer, Executive Director, Phil Brodeen, Legal, MCT; Steve Clark, Rep., White Earth; Kathy Goodwin, Rep. White Earth; Ken Fox, Executive Director, White Earth; David Aubid, Rep., Mille Lacs; Todd Matha, Solicitor General, Mille Lacs; Susan Klapel, Deputy Assistant, Mille Lacs; Emily Johnson, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator, Mille Lacs; Shena Matrious, Government Affairs Area Relations/Special Projects, Mille Lacs; Caryn Day, Legislative Communications, Mille Lacs; Shelly Day, Leg. Office Manager, Mille Lacs; Nora Benjamin, Mille Lacs; Mike Fairbanks, White Earth; LeRoy Fairbanks, Rep., Leech Lake, MCT staff and other interested parties.

President Dupuis requests a motion to approve the agenda.

Chairwoman Chavers addressed Mille Lacs issue on the agenda, stating that the purpose of today's meeting was to address the motion to censure Secretary/Treasurer Tara Mason and hear her response.

Motion by Chairwoman Chavers to table the Mille Lacs issue. Seconded by Secretary/Treasurer Beaulieu. 9 For, 0 Against, 1 Silent (Melanie Benjamin). Carried.

Motion by Chairwoman Chavers to approve the edited agenda. Seconded by Chairman Tibbetts. 10 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

President Dupuis shared his opinion that this is a hearing inside of a meeting.

Secretary-Treasurer Tara Mason requested permission to begin. She noted that two packets were passed out, which have since been picked up, because the only information that can be considered for purposes of this hearing is the information that was passed out in October at Fond du Lac. She also noted that when charges were first presented, she stated that this was White Earth's business, and referenced times when other issues were sent back to the Bands to deal with. She did not see the charges until the rest of the TEC saw the charges, unlike the last time a censure motion was before the TEC involving White Earth.

Secretary/Treasurer Mason explained that she would read the charges again for the benefit of White Earth membership, go through evidence and answer the allegations. She also stated she would have some questions for the TEC, and had three witnesses she wished to call on the first charge. She stated she requested that no White Earth employees be required to present any evidence, and that she would request assistance from MCT Attorney Phil Brodeen if clarifications are necessary.

Secretary/Treasurer Mason proceeded to read the alleged violations with regard to the motion to censure Secretary-Treasurer Tara Mason, White Earth that was presented to the Committee in October by White Earth Chairman Terrance Tibbetts.

Following reading of the alleged violations, Secretary-Treasurer Mason began providing her official response to the charges.

*\* Although Roberts' Rules of Order advises against including any discussion in meeting minutes, the TEC's customary practice is to briefly paraphrase/summarize discussions for the purpose of compiling minutes for regular TEC meetings. Due to this meeting using a hearing format and the nature of the charges, the TEC Secretary was advised by counsel that rather than attempting to paraphrase/summarize the response or defense offered by Tara Mason, it was appropriate to instead include the transcribed verbatim response of Mason as well as that of her witnesses and accusers. This is being done to protect the rights of the accused, to ensure the historical record accurately reflects the complete response/defense provided and hearing discussions, and to protect MCT against any potential allegations of defamation or slander that may result from attempts to paraphrase or summarize any person's responses to the charges.*

The complete transcription of Secretary-Treasurer Mason's response is included in pages 9-148 of the attached transcription, which fully and completely reflects Secretary-Treasurer Mason's defense of herself against the charges and all questions/answers and discussion that arose during this hearing portion of the meeting.

11:35 p.m. Break for Lunch

1:54 p.m. Break – Reconvene at 2:22 p.m.

President Dupuis called for the vote on the motion and second on all charges to censure Secretary-Treasurer Tara Mason. 1 For (Terrance Tibbetts), 3 Against (Tara Mason, Carolyn Beaulieu, Faron Jackson), 6 Silent (Archie LaRose, Cathy Chavers, Dave Morrison, Marie Spry, Melanie Benjamin, Ferdinand Martineau). Motion fails.

President Dupuis encouraged all to attend the next Constitutional Convention meeting

Motion by Secretary/Treasurer Mason to adjourn the meeting at 2:57 p.m. Seconded by Secretary/Treasurer Martineau. 10 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.