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VICE-CHAIRMAN
Robert "Bob" Walters



P.O. Box 590
Eagle Butte, South Dakota 57625
Phone: (605) 964-4155
Fax: (605) 964-4151

TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

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VACANT
Kelsie K. Haskell
Thad Rose

DISTRICT 5
Derek Bartlett
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Robert "Bob" Walters

DISTRICT 6
Ronald Rousseau
Tuffy Thompson

TRIBAL MEMORANDUM

DATE : 1/5/23

TO : SUPERINTENDENT, Cheyenne River Agency

FROM : Ev Ann White Feather, Tribal Secretary *EvAnn White Feather*

SUBJECT: Resolution No. 1-2023-CR: That the CRST Tribal Council has determined that to withstand the severe winter cold and to reimburse Cheyenne River Sioux resident tribal members for emergency outlays for: Propane; Heating Fuel; Food Stores; and Winter Clothing; the Tribe shall pay the Head of Household \$500.00 which will go directly to the vendors and \$175.00, which will go directly to the vendors as well, those adults that don't have a Head of Household (Manors, Medicine Wheel Village, Apartments, Motel Residents, Campers and Families living within another Family, same as the CARES Act) for three (3) months to start in January 2023 (January, February and March 2023) for such purposes from FEMA funds, ARPA funds or tribal funds up to \$3,075,000.00 and contains the provision.

Transmitted herewith are an original and two (2) copies of Resolution No. 1-2023-CR which was duly adopted by the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Council during its Regular Session held on January 4, 2023.

Cc: Chairman
Treasurer
Administrative Officer
Tribal Comptroller
Central Records
Budget Committee Chairwoman
Legal Department
ARPA Office
Committee Secretary
District Officers (6)
File/2

The blue represents the thunderclouds above the world where live the thunder birds who control the four winds. The rainbow is for the Cheyenne River Sioux people who are keepers of the Most Sacred Calf Pipe, a gift from the White Buffalo Calf Maiden. The eagle feathers at the edges of the rim of the world represent the spotted eagle who is the protector of all Lakota. The two pipes fused together are for unity. One pipe is for the Lakota, the other for all the other Indian Nations. The yellow hoops represent the Sacred Hoop, which shall not be broken. The Sacred Calf Pipe Bundle in red represents Wakan Tanka - The Great Mystery. All the colors of the Lakota are visible. The red, yellow, black and white represent the four major races. The blue is for heaven and the green for Mother Earth.

RESOLUTION NO. 1-2023-CR

- WHEREAS, the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe of South Dakota is an unincorporated Tribe of Indians, having accepted the provisions of the Act of June 18, 1934 [48 Stat. 984]; and
- WHEREAS, the Tribe, in order to establish its Tribal organization; to conserve its Tribal property; to develop its common resources; and to promote the general welfare of its people, has ordained and established a Constitution and By-Laws; and
- WHEREAS, the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe is committed to improving the health and welfare of its people to provide the highest level of health care possible; and
- WHEREAS, the CDC reports that “American Indian ... persons across the United States face substantial health disparities, including a disproportionately higher incidence of COVID-19.¹” According to John Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center, New Data Shows COVID-19s disproportionate impact on American Indian, Alaska Native tribes (Rose Weeks Oct. 11, 2021): “COVID-19 has amplified health inequities in American Indian communities because of underfunded and under-resourced health systems, limited access to health services, poor infrastructure, and underlying health disparities.”; and
- WHEREAS, Native Americans experienced disproportionately high rates of deaths from COVID-19 due to poverty, crowded housing, high rates of chronic disease, employment in frontline jobs, and limited access to quality health care; and
- WHEREAS, the National COVID-19 Health Emergency significantly reduced life expectancy among Native Americans.² Among Great Plains Tribes including the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, the loss of life and life expectancy was significantly worse than the national rates for Native Americans; “Native individuals are significantly more at risk of catching and dying from COVID-19 than are white individuals;”³; and

¹ L. Ward, et al. COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths Among American Indians, 2020-2021.

² N. Goldman, et al., Princeton University, School of Public and International Affairs: Life Expectancy Drops for Native Americans Due to COVID-19 (July 27, 2022). Analyzing COVID-19 Pandemic date, Princeton University School of Public Health Reports:

The estimated loss in life expectancy at birth for Native Americans is 4.5 years in 2020 and 6.4 years in 2021 relative to 2019.

The pandemic reduced Native American life expectancy at birth from the already low 72 years in 2019 to about 67 years in 2020 and about 65 years in 2021 for both sexes combined.

Men and women each experienced around a six-year drop in life expectancy at birth.

- Women’s life expectancy was 69 in 2021, 71 in 2020 — compared to 75 in 2019.
- Men’s life expectancy was 62 in 2021, 64 in 2020 — dropping from 69 in 2019.

Native Americans experienced a loss in life expectancy at birth in 2020 that is more than three years above that for whites and 1.5 years above losses for Black and Latino populations.

Native Americans experienced a loss in life expectancy at birth in 2020 that is more than three years above that for whites and 1.5 years above losses for Black and Latino populations.

³ A. Tweedy, “The University of Chicago Legal Forum,” *The Validity of Tribal Checkpoints in South Dakota, Art. 9 vol. 21* (2021).

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WHEREAS, Princeton experts concluded that: “Native Americans continue to experience large social, economic, and health inequities, some of which have persisted for centuries, and all of which increase the risk of COVID-19 infection, hospitalization, and death. *The large financial investment in the American Rescue Plan to enhance identification and treatment of COVID-19 infections and to strengthen the public health infrastructure for the Native American population is a significant step forward;*” ; and

WHEREAS, the 2010 U.S. Census found that the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation was an area of significant economic disadvantage, with Ziebach County on the Reservation being the poorest county in America based upon per capita income and Dewey County on the Reservation being one of the 50 poorest counties in America based upon per capita income⁴; and

WHEREAS, the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe declared a Tribal National Emergency over the Christmas Holiday due to the extreme Winter Storm, which resulted in substantial snow, blowing snow, severe snow drifts, icy roads, closed and blocked highways, heating fuel shortage, extreme cold, and resident tribal members blocked in at home without access to fresh food; and

WHEREAS, the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation located in North Central South Dakota is frequently subject to Arctic Snow Storms and so-called Bomb Cyclone Blizzards; and

WHEREAS, Cheyenne River Sioux resident tribal members must have secure homes on the Reservation to prevent overcrowded housing among relatives and neighbors and the spread of COVID-19 variants this winter; and

WHEREAS, to withstand the severe winter cold, there is a need to assist Cheyenne River Sioux resident tribal members with:

- Propane;
- Heating Fuel;
- Food Stores; and
- Winter Clothing; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the CRST Tribal Council has determined that to withstand the severe winter cold and to reimburse Cheyenne River Sioux resident tribal members for emergency outlays for:

- Propane;
- Heating Fuel;
- Food Stores; and
- Winter Clothing;

⁴ “[C]hildhood poverty is a traumatic experience that has been linked to changes in the methylation of genes related to metabolism and inflammation, and chronic inflammation in turn has been linked to such COVID-19 risk factors as heart disease, diabetes, and cancer.” Ibid. at 266.


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The Tribe shall pay the Head of Household \$500.00 which will go directly to the vendors and \$175.00, which will go directly to the vendors as well, those adults that don't have a Head of Household (Manors, Medicine Wheel Village, Apartments, Motel Residents, Campers and Families living within another Family, same as the CARES Act) for three (3) months to start in January 2023 (January, February and March 2023) for such purposes from FEMA funds, ARPA funds or tribal funds up to \$3,075,000.00; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that nothing in this resolution diminishes, divests, alters, or otherwise affects any inherent, treaty, statutory or other rights of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe over the people, property, and activities described herein. The Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe expressly retains all rights and authority over the people, property, and activities described herein, including but not limited to legislative, regulatory, and adjudicatory powers.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned as Secretary of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe certify that the Tribal Council is composed of fifteen (15) members of whom 11, constituting a quorum, were present at a meeting duly and regularly called, noticed, convened and held this 4th day of January, 2023 Regular Session; and that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted at such meeting by a roll call vote of 11 yes, 0 no, 0 abstaining, 3 vacant and 1 absent.


Ev Ann White Feather, Secretary
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe