



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians
Legislative Branch of Tribal Government

Weekly Review: September 25-29, 2023

Workshop

September 26, 2023

Legal staff facilitated a workshop for the elected officials and staff regarding two bills (1) a bill amending subchapter 2 of chapter 2 of title 12 to delete an outdated policy and update the language and (2) a draft bill to enact a cannabis code.

Band Assembly Meeting

September 27, 2023

The Speaker of the Assembly convened a meeting of the Band Assembly. The District Representatives amended and approved the agenda.

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Record: September 20, 2023.

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 20-04-62-23 (A Bill Authorizing a Supplemental Appropriation for the purpose of authorizing expenditures and budget transfer(s)/revision(s) for the Executive Branch for the Fiscal Years ending September 30, 2023, and September 30, 2024).

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 20-04-63-23 (A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for the October and November 2023 Tribal Per Capita Distribution for Adults for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2024).

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 20-04-64-23: A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for the October and November 2023 Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act (“TGWEA”) Assistance Payment Program for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2024).

The District Representatives tabled Resolution 20-04-38-23 (A Resolution Adopting and Updating the Procurement Policy and Training Aid for Indian Housing Block Grants and Indian Community Development Block Grants).

The District Representatives approved contract addendum with Holland & Knight to increase the contract amount to continue to provide legal support to the Office of Solicitor General and related special projects.

The District Representatives approved contract with Degerstrom & Sons Construction, LLC. to provide materials and labor for various residential elder home roofing project sites in Districts 1, 2, 3, Urban, and surrounding areas.

The District Representatives approved contract with Hartl Enterprises, LLC. dba Ron’s Roll-Offs, to provide supply, delivery and pick-up dumpsters for various Community Development project sites in District 3 Hinckley, Sandstone, Lake Lena, and surrounding areas.

The District Representatives approved contract with Garrison Disposal Co. to provide supply, delivery and pick-up dumpsters for various Community Development project sites in Districts 1, 2, 2a, and surrounding areas.

The District Representatives approved contract with Tyke's Carpet Sales, Inc. to provide labor and materials to replace flooring in 14 housing rental units in Districts 1, 2, and 3.

The District Representatives approved contract with Thompson Excavating, LLC. to provide supply and delivery of black dirt to multiple Community Development project sites in Districts 1, 2, 2a, 3, and surrounding areas.

The District Representatives approved contract with Lisa Zeit to provide Special Education Coordinator duties to include communication, due process monitoring, scheduling, supervising, and other duties as contractor is available.

The District Representatives approved contract with Regents of Minnesota to provide consultation, training, support and onsite services to Nay Ah Shing School staff for the implementation of Check & Connect tiered intervention with the purpose of increasing the graduation rates of students on Individualized Education Program ("IEP").

The District Representatives approved contract with Bohn Properties of McGregor, MN, LLC. to provide lease agreement for office space for the District 2 Aanjibimaadizing programming.

The District Representatives approved contract with Lockridge, Grindal, Nauen to provide professional lobbying services to the Band at the state legislature.

The District Representatives approved contract with Red Circle Agency to provide specialized professional services for public relations and communications services to the Band.

The District Representatives approved contract with Rotunda Group to provide professional strategic government affairs counsel and direct lobbying services to the Band.

The District Representatives approved contract with Lockridge, Grindal, Nauen to provide Political Action Committee ("PAC") management for the Band.

The District Representatives approved contract with Holland & Knight, LLP. to provide professional services to the Band including a range of sensitive issues at the Federal level.

The District Representatives approved contract with McKinnis and Doom to provide Legal Services to Band members that are not eligible for services through the Band Member Legal Services office due to a conflict of interest.

The District Representatives approved contract with SailorsAllen Law to provide Legal Services to Band members that are not eligible for services through the Band Member Legal Services office due to a conflict of interest.

The District Representatives approved contract with Central MN Conflict and Pro Se Services, LLC. to provide Legal Services to Band members that are not eligible for services through the Band Member Legal Services office due to a conflict of interest.

The District Representatives approved contract with Simafranca Law Office to provide Legal Services to Band members that are not eligible for services through the Band Member Legal Services office due to a conflict of interest.

The District Representatives approved Foster Care License: District 2: Renewal: FFH2120001.

The District Representatives approved Foster Care License: District 3: Renewal: FFH2230003.

The District Representatives tabled Nomination (A nomination from Chief Benjamin, nominating Bradley E. Harrington to serve on the Corporate Board, At-Large position. Current term ends March 31, 2027).

The District Representatives tabled Nomination (A nomination from Chief Benjamin, nominating Jennifer Gahbow to serve on the Corporate Board, District II position. Current term ends March 31, 2026).

The District Representatives tabled Nomination (A nomination from Chief Benjamin, nominating Percy Benjamin to serve as the Commissioner of Community Development. Current term ends June 30, 2027).

The District Representatives approved Resolution 20-04-41-23 (A Resolution Approving a License to Operate Wewinabi, Head Start and Early Head Start in Districts I, II, and III).

In the “Messages from the Representatives” portion of the agenda, District I Representative Virgil Wind opened with reminder tomorrow evening District I community meeting at the new district I community center, we will have teachers and support staff from the area schools (Onamia, MLEE, Nay ah Shing, & Midstate Representatives) some of our kids attend in Little Falls. Meal provided by Dawn Day. Representative Wind shared there’s a number of nominations on the agenda, please reach out with question or concerns, it’s very important that we have your input, it’s a hard decision as an elected official when considering these nominations sometimes there’s information we’re not aware of, he encourages everybody with concerns regarding any of them reach out to all three of the Representatives. Representative Wind Representative Wind closed his comments with another shout out to Community Development, Housing, Band Member Legal Services, Government Affairs, and everybody that got their annual contracts in place before the end of the fiscal year.

District II Representative Wendy Merrill opened with along the same lines as Representative Wind if there’s comments, questions, concerns her number is (320)362-4925 and she is available for anything in regards to the community, meetings that are happening, Facebook posts, or any kind of notification that went that is kind of inaccurate information, look forward to hearing from band members as she has been already. Representative Merrill closed her comments with getting the word out to band members that there is a dish setting and ground blessing for the cultivation facility that’s happening on Monday, October 2, 2023 from 11-12:30 p.m. behind the casino parking lot, behind convention center, she wants to make sure that band members are aware, get the word out, because this has been an important project for her as well as the other Representatives. She wanted to make sure that band members are aware of that cause not always is there communication that is sent out to band members, she wants to make sure people are informed.

District III Representative Harry Davis opened with events out of their control happened recently and we had to cancel our elder trip to Treasure Island Bingo and we will reschedule to October. Representative Davis shared he will not attend the workshop tomorrow due to personal appointment. Representative Davis closed his comments with District III meeting will be tomorrow at 5:30 p.m. at Grand Casino Hinckley Hotel Ballroom.

In the “Message from the Secretary-Treasurer” portion of the agenda, Secretary-Treasurer, Sheldon Boyd opened and closed with a review that we had visitors here from Lac Courte Oreilles reservation kind of the equivalent of a delegates group those folks over there are

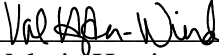
researching redrafting their constitution and amongst the other tribes they came to Mille Lacs to take a look at the system that we have and we got good reviews from them and it's important to reflect that we are operating under a framework that was started forty years ago and it's a work in progress, but we have something really special here and the elected officials, everyone in government, and the population we've had the experience of working within this framework and it is a division of powers and there is rub against each other, it's working, it's serving its purpose, the train isn't just run away there's push and pull and it keeps us moving on a slow but steady path. You don't really know until someone comes in and sits and talks with you, kind of sit back and reflect. We have a lot of work to do yet on this structure, he thinks there's a huge improvement that's needed. He thinks that the Elected Officials, Madam Chief Benjamin, District I Representative Virgil Wind, District II Representative Wendy Merrill, and District III Representative Harry Davis and all the staff in here, we reflect well on the achievements that our Band has achieved over the years and he thinks it's just a really good day once you sit down and step back and talk about it and he thinks it was a good day for the Band as a whole at least the government and the way they have decided to provide services and represent the members of the Band.

Budget Discussion Meeting

September 29, 2023

The elected officials and staff hosted a budget discussion meeting with the Commissioner of Finance, Assistant to Commissioner of Finance, Commissioner of Administration, Assistant Commissioner of Administration, Commissioner of Department of Natural Resources, Commissioner of Education, and Commissioner of Health & Human Services regarding fiscal year 24-25 budget.

The next Band Assembly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 4, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.



Valerie Harrington-Wind
Chief Communications Officer