



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians  
*Legislative Branch of Tribal Government*

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**Weekly Review: August 5-9, 2024**

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**Band Assembly Meeting**

**August 5, 2024**

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

Band Assembly conducted a continued compromise hearing regarding Vetoed Act 38-24 Enacting A Bill of Appropriation for Governmental Operations of the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches; Circle of Health; Gaming Regulatory Authority; Department of Athletic Regulation; Supplemental Income Program for Elders; Tribal Employment Rights Office; and Band Member Legal Services of the Mille Lacs Band Tribal Government for fiscal years ending September 30, 2024, and September 30, 2025. The hearing commenced at 1:06 p.m. with an opening statement by Chief Executive Virgil Wind and District I Representative Carolyn Beaulieu. Following the opening statements there were comments from District II Representative Wendy Merrill and District III Representative Harry Davis. Further comment was made by Chief Executive Wind. The continued compromise hearing will be scheduled. The compromise hearing was closed at 1:17 p.m.

**Workshop**

**August 6, 2024**

Legal staff facilitated a workshop for the elected officials and staff regarding draft Cannabis board letter and draft Tribal Employment Rights (TERO) legislation.

**Weekly Sync Meeting**

**August 6, 2024**

Legislative staff facilitated a weekly sync meeting with elected officials and staff to review the upcoming Band Assembly agenda. The meeting included discussion about the open seats on the boards for Band Member Legal Services and Cannabis Regulation, continued compromise hearing proposed date, Three Branch meeting proposed, Chief Wind request to review Revolving Loan Policy prior to approval, bills to work on, the workshop schedule, workshop projects, and District Representative initiatives.

**Band Assembly Meeting**

**August 6, 2024**

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

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 21-02-29-24 (A Resolution Approving the Continuance of the Mille Lacs Band Government, Circle of Health, Gaming Regulatory Authority, Department of Athletic Regulation, Supplemental Income Program for Elders, Tribal Employment Rights Office, Housing Initiative, and Band Member Legal Services Fiscal Operations Until August 31, 2024).

**Band Assembly Meeting**

**August 7, 2024**

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

The District Representatives amended and approved Band Assembly Record: August 1, 2024, approved Band Assembly Record: August 5, 2024, and approved Band Assembly Record: August 6, 2024.

The District Representatives amended and approved Band Assembly Bill 21-02-45-24 (A Bill Authorizing a Supplemental Appropriation for the purpose of authorizing expenditures and budget revision(s)/transfer(s) for the Executive and Legislative Branches for the Fiscal Years ending September 30, 2024 and September 30, 2025).

The District Representatives approved a contract for Miller Custom Remodeling to provide labor and materials for an interior and exterior renovation project at a private elder home in District 1.

The District Representatives amended and approved Resolution 21-02-30-24 (A Resolution in Support of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and the Mille Lacs Electric Cooperative to Improve Electrical Services).

**Messages from the Chief Executive:**

Chief Executive Virgil Wind was not present during this portion of the meeting.

**Messages from the Representatives:**

District I Representative Carolyn Beaulieu had no messages.

District II Representative Wendy Merrill shared in regards to the budget bill we are in compromise and have to make a couple adjustments, Miigwech for everyone being patient. Been trying to get this passed since spring. Miigwech.

District III Representative Harry Davis shared reminder Community meeting will be at Aazhoomog Thursday, August 22, 2024 5:30 p.m. He announced elder trip to Big Sandy Lodge on September 6-8, 2024.

**Messages from the Secretary-Treasurer:**

Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd had no messages.

**Band Assembly Meeting**

**August 8, 2024**

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

Band Assembly conducted a continued compromise hearing regarding Vetoed Act 38-24 Enacting A Bill of Appropriation for Governmental Operations of the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches; Circle of Health; Gaming Regulatory Authority; Department of Athletic Regulation; Supplemental Income Program for Elders; Tribal Employment Rights Office; and Band Member Legal Services of the Mille Lacs Band Tribal Government for fiscal years ending September 30, 2024, and September 30, 2025. The hearing commenced at 10:12 a.m. with an opening statement by Chief Executive Virgil Wind. Following the opening statement, they went into executive session at 10:18 a.m. and came out of executive session at 11:19 a.m. There was a proposed edit from Commissioner of Finance, Mel Towle with a comment from Chief Executive Wind. Parliamentarian, Darcie Big Bear shared screen to show edits. Further comment was made by District II

Representative Commissioner Towle, District III Representative Harry Davis, and Chief Executive Wind. A compromise was reached. The compromise hearing was closed at 12:05 p.m.

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 21-02-46-24 (A Bill of Appropriation for Governmental Operations of the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches; Circle of Health; Gaming Regulatory Authority; Department of Athletic Regulation; Supplemental Income Program for Elders; Tribal Employment Rights Office; and Band Member Legal Services of the Mille Lacs Band Tribal Government for fiscal years ending September 30, 2024, and September 30, 2025). Chief Executive Wind signed the Act into law, which means Band government now has a two-year budget. The government has been operating on continuing resolutions for several months.

The District Representatives tabled Band Assembly Record: August 7, 2024.

**Messages from the Chief Executive:**

Chief Executive Virgil Wind shared “First off again, you can’t say enough thank you guys. Thank you guys for where we’re at. Really do appreciate the compromise and the ability to push back and forth, you know always keeping the band members interest at heart and really do appreciate you guys. The thing I’ll say about the budget is this a first step that’s well over due and throughout the payroll budget revision (PBR) process and through everything that’s happened up in this point, what it’s going to do is it’s going to give us a measure and also the ability to create a living breathing document that becomes a reflection of what we’re actually doing within the band, so hopefully the PBRs are incorporated going forward, we got something right? This is what we approved, the PBRs get applied and it shows exactly what we do over this two-year period to truly reflect and have a better budget when we start looking at the next biennium going into 2026, so that’s the most exciting part for me. A lot of work to do now that we have something to measure against. Secondly, for those out there those Band employees that are online, I also want to reach out and I’ll say this a couple times over the next couple weeks, but really thanking the Band Assembly for their work, their hard work and diligence in getting the revolving loan fund sent over, I did sign that into law here this morning; really excited for that for our Band member employees that have been waiting. I want to reiterate that thanks because it was something that was very important to me while I was a District Representative and having that come to fruition for the Band and for the employees of the Band, it’s so important so really do appreciate you guys. Miigwech Mi’iw.

**Messages from the Representatives:**

District I Representative Carolyn Beaulieu shared she is relieved and thankful that we were able to come to a compromise and get that budget passed. She didn’t want to be the one holding it up and that is why she agreed to concur with it at the beginning.

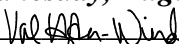
District II Representative Wendy Merrill shared Miigwech to everyone working though out this process and thank you Mel Towle, Chris Waite, and Jared Miller.

District III Representative Harry Davis had no messages.

**Messages from the Secretary-Treasurer:**

Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd had no messages.

***The next Regular Band Assembly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 14, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.***

  
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Valerie Harrington-Wind  
Chief Communications Officer