



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians
Legislative Branch of Tribal Government

Weekly Review: March 25-29, 2024

Band Assembly Meeting

March 27, 2024

The Speaker of the Assembly continued the meeting of the Band Assembly from Friday, March 22, 2024. The District Representatives amended and approved the agenda.

The District Representatives took from the table and approved the Band Assembly Record for March 13, 2024 and approved March 20, 2024.

The District Representatives amended and approved Band Assembly Bill 21-01-23-24 (A Bill authorizing a supplemental appropriation for the purpose of authorizing expenditures for Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures for the Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2024).

The District Representatives tabled, took from table, and approved Band Assembly Bill 21-01-24-24 (A Bill authorizing a supplemental appropriation for the purpose of authorizing expenditures for Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures for the Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2024).

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 21-01-25-24 (A Bill Authorizing a Supplemental Appropriation for the purpose of authorizing expenditures and budget revision(s)/transfer(s) for the Executive Branch for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2024).

The District Representatives approved contract for Holland & Knight, LLP to provide legal services in regard to Welfare Exclusion, Minor Trust, Revenue Allocation Plan, ARPA/CARES Act compliance.

The District Representatives approved contract for Ron's Roll Offs to provide dumpster service for the District 3 annual clean-up.

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

The District Representatives approved contract for St. Croix Recreation Fun Playgrounds, Inc. to provide labor and materials for the construction of a new playground for the new Early Head Start facility in District 3.

The District Representatives approved contract addendum for Cuyuna Regional Medical Center to provide ongoing services with an amended increase in the hourly rate for the provider, effective July 1, 2024; starting May 1, 2024, adding one day per month for family medicine obstetrical clinical care; and amending the contract end date from September 30, 2023 to September 30, 2024.

The District Representatives tabled, took from table and approved Resolution 21-01-11-24 (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 April 30, 2024).

The District Representatives tabled, took from table, and approved Resolution 21-01-12-24 (A Resolution Approving the Continuance of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures, Non-Gaming, and Gaming Fiscal Operations Until April 30, 2024).

Band Assembly conducted a continued compromise hearing regarding Vetoed Act 19-24 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 1:09 p.m. with an opening statement by District II Representative Wendy Merrill and Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin. Following the opening statements there were comments from District II Representative Wendy Merrill, District I Representative Virgil Wind and District III Representative Harry Davis. Further comments were made by Chief Executive Benjamin, Representative Wendy Merrill, and Commissioner of Finance Mel Towle. Continued compromise hearing discussion by Representatives and Chief Executive. The continued compromise hearing will be scheduled for Monday, April 1, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. The compromise hearing was closed at 2:31 p.m.

Messages from the Chief Executive:

Chief Benjamin was not present during this portion of the meeting.

Messages from the Representatives:

District I Representative Virgil Wind said a reminder for tonight is the District I Community meeting Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at new District I community center. The agenda includes DI Office update and Kelly Applegate, Commissioner of Department of Natural Resources with an update on Water over Nickel and fisheries.

District II Representative Wendy Merrill said this evening in Chiminising is an elder dinner at 5:30 p.m. singers, dancers, and dinner. Tomorrow is the Urban community meeting at 5:30 p.m. April language classes are from 6-8 p.m. on April 1, 8, and 22, 2024. She said the elder trip is rescheduled to April 21, 2024 if you haven't signed up you can sign up until April 8, 2024. Chiminising Ziigwan Youth pow wow is Sunday, April 28, 2024. She lastly said miigwech to Band Assembly, she took some time off last week; she had prior travel commitments and cannot predict when budget or compromise meetings happen, she appreciates the other Representatives being there for her.

District III Representative Harry Davis said the 2nd cribbage tournament date is rescheduled from Monday, March 25, 2024 due to the weather to tomorrow at the ALU call Katie Draper or Monica Benjamin for the time.

Messages from the Secretary-Treasurer:

Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd had no messages.

Workshop

March 28, 2024

Legal staff facilitated a workshop for the elected officials, staff, and Commissioner of Finance regarding the draft letter regarding nominations to the cannabis board and the compromise hearing regarding vetoed Act 19-24.

Workshop

March 29, 2024

Legal staff facilitated a workshop for the elected officials, staff, Deputy Solicitor General, Community Development staff, and Housing Board members regarding a draft renovation loan policy.

The next Band Assembly meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 1, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.



Valerie Harrington-Wind
Chief Communications Officer