



MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE

Executive Branch of Tribal Government

November 15, 2019

Honorable Members of the Band Assembly
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
43408 Oodena Drive
Onamia, MN 56359

Dear Speaker Boyd and Honorable District Representatives:

I have received Bills 18-04-06-20 and 18-04-07-20, both appropriating and authorizing expenditures for Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures' non-gaming businesses and Grand Casinos Mille Lacs and Hinckley for the period beginning October 1, 2018 and ending September 30, 2019. Pursuant to 3 MLBSA 16(c), I hereby veto Bills 18-04-06-20 and 18-04-07-20 for the same reasons I discussed in my November 11 letter to the Band Assembly vetoing Bill 18-04-05-20.

Miigwech for a productive discussion at our negotiation yesterday. I understand these bills are companion bills to Bill 18-04-05-20 and that the Band Assembly was obligated to pass them. I believe we are all in agreement that Title 16 and Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures needs to be strengthened, and I look forward to working with the Band Assembly to accomplish that goal.

Miigwech,

Melanie Benjamin, Chief Executive

cc: Joe Nayquonabe, Jr., Commissioner for Corporate Affairs

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Band Assembly Bill 18-04-07-20

A Bill for Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures (“Corporate Ventures”), a corporate body politic of the Mille Lacs Band (“Band”), for the purpose of appropriating funds and authorizing expenditures to Corporate Ventures for the operations, and capital and economic development projects of Grand Casino Hinckley and Grand Casino Mille Lacs (“Casinos”) for the period beginning October 1, 2018 and ending September 30, 2019.

The District III Representative introduced the following Bill on the 5th day of November, 2019.

Preamble

Be it enacted by the Band Assembly of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (“Band Assembly”) for the purpose of appropriating funds and authorizing expenditures to Corporate Ventures for the operations, and capital and economic development projects of Grand Casino Hinckley and Grand Casino Mille Lacs (“Casinos”) for the period beginning October 1, 2018 and ending September 30, 2019.

Statement of Purpose. The Band Assembly recognizes that economic development is the essential mandate of Corporate Ventures. Corporate Ventures is created by Band Statute to, among other purposes, establish and operate commercial enterprises for the benefit of the Band, to avail the Band of the benefits of engaging in business and economic development without subjecting the Band to the erosion of its inherent sovereignty, and to insulate Band assets from liability assumed in the conduct of its business operations. 16 MLBSA § 102 (c), (e), (f). To that end, the Band Assembly is committed to support Corporate Ventures in its efforts at economic development and business diversification.

Section 1. General Appropriation. The Band Assembly hereby appropriates and authorizes expenditures consistent with this Ordinance or other applicable Band law to Corporate Ventures for the period beginning October 1, 2018 and ending September 30, 2019 for the general operations, and capital and economic development projects of Casinos subject to and in accordance with the terms of this Ordinance.

- (a) No later than August 1, 2019, Corporate Ventures shall submit a budget to the Band Assembly for the 2020 fiscal year. The FY2020 budget shall be in such form and content to provide supporting detail in accord with general custom and usage for similar types of business budgets and shall be specific in detail to allow the Band Assembly to reasonably discern the proposed actions and expenditures of Casinos. The proposed budget shall consist of the following component parts: existing and proposed capital and economic development projects, and the general operations of Casinos.
- (b) Unless otherwise approved by Band Assembly Resolution, any and all funds previously appropriated and remaining in the Gaming Business and Economic Development Fund at the end of fiscal year 2019 shall not be carried over into the

next fiscal year, but shall be deposited into the Gaming Business and Economic Development Fund of the Mille Lacs Band Government within sixty (60) calendar days after the start of FY2020, but no later than November 30, 2019.

- (c) Corporate Ventures shall report to the Band Assembly on a quarterly basis, or as otherwise requested by the Band Assembly, the cash requirement levels needed to operate Casinos and the justification to support the use of such funds.

Section 2. Revenue.

- (a) One hundred percent (100%) of the net gaming revenue shall be deposited monthly into the General Fund of the Band. The Casinos shall calculate and remit its net revenues for a fiscal month no later than the 20th calendar day of the following month to the General Fund of the Band. Net Revenue is defined as the gross revenue from any and all departments, units, and all other sources of the integrated casino-hotel-entertainment facilities within and affiliated with the Casinos, less reasonable and proper operating expenses for those facilities, and related businesses, including a four percent (4.0%) gross revenue capital projects reserve consistent with industry standards to upkeep and maintain the facilities, and continue the improvement of the facilities necessary to ensure the Casinos remain premiere entertainment destinations.
- (b) For purposes of computing net revenue, reasonable and proper operating expenses may include but are not limited to:
 - (1) payment of wages, salaries, benefits, training and educational programs for employees;
 - (2) payment of principal and interest for debt acquired to maintain and improve assets;
 - (3) prizes;
 - (4) materials and supplies;
 - (5) administrative fees;
 - (6) utilities;
 - (7) repairs and maintenance;
 - (8) interest on installment contract purchases;
 - (9) insurance and bonding;
 - (10) advertising and marketing expenses;
 - (11) professional fees;
 - (12) security costs;
 - (13) costs associated with regulatory compliance;
 - (14) equipment purchases and leases;
 - (15) trash removal;
 - (16) snow removal;
 - (17) costs of goods purchased;
 - (18) a reasonable operating reserve fund for expenditures that may arise periodically but not in a regular recurring manner; and

- (19) a reasonable reserve and replacement fund, consistent with industry standards, or as required by any future debt instruments in excess of the capital projects reserve described at Subsection 2(a) above, if any.
- (c) Eight percent (8%) of the Net Revenue from the total gaming revenues of the Casinos shall be deposited in the existing Business and Economic Development Fund and held in an interest bearing account under the direction of the Commissioner of Finance, Office of Management and Budget. Expenditures shall be made from said Business and Economic Development Fund only as expressly authorized by formal appropriation by the Band Assembly.
- (d) The Commissioner of Finance shall transfer funds to be deposited in accordance with Subsection 2(c) to the Business and Economic Development Fund no less than quarterly.

Section 3. Operations Budget. Revenues of the Casinos are budgeted at: Three hundred ninety-one million, six hundred sixty-eight thousand, one hundred ninety-seven dollars and no cents (\$391,668,197.00) and capital projects reserve of: Fifteen million, six hundred sixty-six thousand, seven hundred twenty-eight dollars and no cents (\$15,666,728.00) for fiscal year 2019. Capital projects are funded from the 4.0% capital projects reserve budget line item. Any line item budget modification totaling one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) or more, must be approved by the Corporate Ventures Board of Directors. The Commissioner of Corporate Affairs shall notify the Secretary-Treasurer of the Band of the change in writing within five (5) business days of the Corporate Ventures Board of Directors action. Any cumulative budget modification to net revenues over one million dollars (\$1,000,000) must be approved by Band Assembly.

Section 4. Economic Development Projects Budget.

- (a) Projects Equal To or Less Than \$250,000. At least ten (10) business days before expending money on a project for Casinos equal to or exceeding twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) and less than two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000), Corporate Ventures shall provide written notice to the Band Assembly. If the Band Assembly stays the project within ten (10) business days after receiving proper notice, then Corporate Ventures may not expend money on the project.
- (b) Projects In Excess Of \$250,000. Corporate Ventures shall notify the Band Assembly of any payment to a vendor exceeding two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000), which is paid as either a single payment or in a cumulative amount to the same vendor within the fiscal year. Corporate Ventures may not expend more than two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) on any single project for Casinos without prior authorization from the Band Assembly. Said authorization shall be in the form of a Resolution adopted by the Band Assembly.

Section 5. Capital Projects Budget.

- (a) The Commissioner of Corporate Affairs shall present the Capital Projects Plan to the Commissioner of Finance no later than August 1st of each year. The Plan shall include detailed reports which describe capital improvements completed during the fiscal year as well as those planned for the next fiscal year and four (4) years thereafter. The Plan shall not be binding on the Casinos, but will be used by the Band Assembly as a tool to project future capital project cost outlays to facilitate the annual budgetary process. Upon receipt of the Plan, the Commissioner of Finance and the Commissioner of Corporate Affairs shall meet with the Band Assembly to discuss the details of the Plan. The Band Assembly reserves all authority to approve or adjust any Plan being proposed by the Commissioner of Corporate Affairs.
- (b) At the end of fiscal year 2019, Corporate Ventures shall submit a report detailing the 2019 fiscal year's capital expenditures and funds expended to complete projects for Casinos. Except as otherwise approved by Band Assembly Resolution, any funds previously appropriated and remaining at the end of fiscal year 2019, excluding obligated funds in any casino capital improvement budget line item at the end of fiscal year 2019 shall be deposited in the Gaming Business and Economic Development Fund within sixty (60) calendar days.

Section 6. Reporting Requirements. Corporate Ventures and Casinos shall provide quarterly reports to the Chief Executive, Speaker of the Assembly, District Representatives, and the Commissioner of Finance at official quarterly meetings and at other times as requested.

- (a) Reporting on Business Participation. The required form of reporting shall be in a format acceptable to the Band Assembly to maximize the value of the information contained therein. The Band Assembly may at any time, following reasonable notice, call to meet with the Commissioner of Corporate Affairs to discuss any and all matters concerning the Casinos. At a minimum, Corporate Ventures shall report or cause to be reported to the Band Assembly the following information concerning the operations of the Casinos:
 - (1) quarterly balance sheet, income or profit and loss, and cash flow statements of the Casinos;
 - (2) annual audited financial statements of the Casinos within one hundred twenty (120) days of the end of the fiscal year;
 - (3) all other activities the Casinos are engaged in;
 - (4) any business record, statement, or other document in the possession or control of Casinos and, at Band Assembly's request, delivered not later than ten (10) consecutive business days from the date of the request; and
 - (5) a monthly written summary of all Casino vendor contracts which have been submitted to the Corporate Ventures Legal Department for review.

The contract summary shall be submitted within five (5) business days of the end of each month. The summary shall include:

- (i) Contract name;
 - (ii) Name of the vendor providing goods and/or services;
 - (iii) Amount of the contract;
 - (iv) Description of the goods and/or services to be provided;
 - (v) The contract start and end dates;
 - (vi) Casino department for which the goods or services are to be provided and the departmental employee who initiated the contract;
 - (vii) Master control number; and
 - (viii) Other ancillary information applicable to the contract.
- (6) Band member and other Native American employment summary at quarter end. The summary shall be in sufficient detail to discern position, date of hire, date of termination, and tribal affiliation.

Section 7. Miscellaneous Provisions.

- (a) Loans for Casinos and Other Credit. Corporate Ventures shall not borrow, lend or enter into any loan or lease agreement or establish any line of credit for Casinos, which individually, or in aggregate, are in excess of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) without the prior approval by the Band Assembly.
- (b) Tax Revenue. All tax revenue collected by Corporate Ventures or Casinos shall not be distributed or used for any purpose other than that expressly provided for by appropriation of the Band Assembly.
- (c) Employment Information. Corporate Ventures on behalf of Casinos shall submit a report to the Band Assembly detailing the specific budgeted dollar amount for each of the top fifty (50) positions, vacant or filled, held at the Casinos and shall report a dollar value in the aggregate for all the remaining positions no later than the first of March (March 1) of every year. Bonus amounts for each of the top positions shall also be included in this report.
- (d) Prohibited Projects. Corporate Ventures and Casinos shall not use funds for any business activity, purpose, or venture that is illegal or inconsistent with the values of the Band.
- (e) The professional and personal development of Band members is a priority of the Band. As such, Casinos shall:
 - (i) Work with a Band Member Development Advocates and TERO Representatives, who are employees of the Band, at each Casino to ensure Band members are given opportunities for employment and professional

- growth in order to increase Band member self-esteem and career progression.
- (ii) Increase Band Member employment, retention, promotion, and training opportunities by ten percent (10%) from October 1, 2018 and ending September 30, 2019, and every year thereafter.
 - (iii) Implement measureable and sustainable Band Member development goals.
 - (iv) Create and implement a Band Member succession plan for management positions.
 - (v) Submit monthly reports to Band Member Development Advocates and TERO Representatives that includes statistics on the number of Band members hired, working positions, training opportunities and results, and promotions in the Casinos. Band Member Development Advocates and TERO Representatives shall then provide quarterly reporting to the Band Assembly.
 - (vi) Human Resources and departmental management shall be responsible and held accountable to ensure all Band Member goals and promotion opportunities are routine and applied on a consistent basis. Human Resources and departmental management may be re-structured if these goals are not consistently met.
- (f) Marketing Budget. Corporate Ventures and Casinos shall decrease the Casinos marketing budget by five percent (5%) from FY2018.
- (g) Failure to meet the requirements in this Ordinance will result in fines levied by the Secretary-Treasurer, or withholding of funds.

Ordinance 07-20
(Band Assembly Bill 18-04-07-20)

Introduced to the Band Assembly on this
Fifth day of November in the year
Two thousand nineteen.

Passed by the Band Assembly on this
Fifth day of November in the year
Two thousand nineteen.

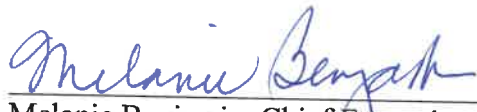


Sheldon Boyd, Speaker of the Assembly

APPROVED

Date: November 15, 2019

VETO



Melanie Benjamin, Chief Executive

OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE BAND