



THE MILLE LACS BAND OF
OJIBWE INDIANS
Legislative Branch of Tribal Government

RESOLUTION 18-01-139-18

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE REQUEST FOR A CENSURE
HEARING ON CHIEF EXECUTIVE MELANIE BENJAMIN AT THE
MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBE TRIBAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING ON APRIL 27, 2018 FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE MINNESOTA
CHIPPEWA TRIBE CONSTITUTION, OATH OF OFFICE, AND THE
MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE'S CODE OF ETHICS**

- WHEREAS, the Mille Lacs Band Assembly ("Band Assembly") is the duly elected governing body of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe ("Band"), a federally-recognized Indian Tribe; and
- WHEREAS, the Band is one (1) of the six (6) Ojibwe bands that consist of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe ("MCT"); and
- WHEREAS, pursuant to Article III of the Revised Constitution of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe ("Constitution"), the governing bodies of the MCT are the Tribal Executive Committee ("TEC") and Reservation Business Committees ("RBC") of each Ojibwe band that includes the Band Assembly and Chief Executive of the Band; and
- WHEREAS, pursuant to Article III Section 1 of the Constitution, the Chief Executive and Secretary-Treasurer are members of the TEC; and
- WHEREAS, pursuant to 3 MLBSA § 2(d), the Band Assembly is empowered to adopt resolutions to promote the general welfare of the people of the Band; and
- WHEREAS, pursuant to 3 MLBSA § 2(g), the Band Assembly is empowered to perform all other legislative functions conferred by the provisions of Article VI of the Constitution of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe; and
- WHEREAS, pursuant to 3 MLBSA §§ 7(a) and 7(d), the Secretary-Treasurer has the authority and duty to superintend and manage all fiscal operations of the Band, and to investigate financial irregularity; and
- WHEREAS, between October 2016 and March 2018 multiple matters have been exposed in the Executive Branch that are questionable as being a violation of Band policy, being unlawful, or being unethical; and

DISTRICT I

43408 Oodena Drive • Onamia, MN 56359
(320) 532-4181 • Fax (320) 532-4209

DISTRICT II

36666 State Highway 65 • McGregor, MN 55760
(218) 768-3311 • Fax (218) 768-3903

DISTRICT IIA

2605 Chiminising Drive • Isle, MN 56342
(320) 676-1102 • Fax (320) 676-3432

DISTRICT III

45749 Grace Lake Road • Sandstone, MN 55072
(320) 384-6240 • Fax (320) 384-6190

URBAN OFFICE

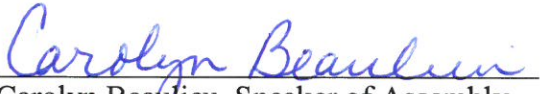
1404 E. Franklin Avenue • Minneapolis, MN 55404
(612) 872-1424 • Fax (612) 872-1257

WHEREAS, said matters include: 1) Court file 09CR01, an unresolved and pending Mille Lacs Band District Court Case that includes theft charges against the Chief Executive; 2) a completed forensic audit conducted on the Band's TANF / 477 program and the Chief Executive's failure to address the alleged fraudulent activity; 3) ignored complaints about the lack of leadership and unethical behavior in the Band Tribal Police Department; and 4) and using Band funds to pay for services that the Chief Executive is already compensated for in her duties as the Secretary of the MCT.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Band Assembly hereby supports the request for a censure hearing on Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin at the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Tribal Executive Committee meeting on April 27, 2018 for violations of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Constitution, Oath of Office, and the Mille Lacs Band Code of Ethics.

WE DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was duly concurred with and adopted at a regular session of the Band Assembly in Legislative Council assembled, a quorum of legislators being present, held on the 24th day of April, 2018 at St. Paul, Minnesota by a vote of 2 FOR, 0 AGAINST, 1 SILENT.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we, the Band Assembly hereunto cause to have set the signature of the Speaker of the Assembly.


Carolyn Beaulieu, Speaker of Assembly

OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE BAND