



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians
Legislative Branch of Tribal Government

Weekly Review: April 3-7, 2023

Workshop

April 4, 2023

Legal staff facilitated a workshop for the elected officials and staff regarding Section 16 and 18 of Title 4 (Executive Branch) draft letter, vetoed proposed revisions to Section 4 (Executive Officers) of Title 4 (Executive Branch), Chapter 3 (Band Member Legal Services) of Title 15 (Independent Agencies), and discussion regarding Special Revenue Resolution to Adopt a New Burial Assistance Program.

Weekly Sync Meeting

April 4, 2023

Legislative staff facilitated a Weekly Sync Meeting with elected officials to review the upcoming Band Assembly agenda items. The review included discussion about Minors' Trust Amendments; the workshop schedule; and District Representative initiatives.

Band Assembly Meeting

April 5, 2023

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

The District Representatives amended and approved the minutes from the Band Assembly meeting dated March 29, 2023.

The Speaker of the Assembly Pro Tem continued the compromise hearing for Vetoed Act 14-23 at 10:11 a.m. The hearing commenced with an opening statement from Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and an opening statement from the sponsor of the bill District I Representative Virgil Wind. The opening statements were followed by comments from District II Representative Wendy Merrill, District III Representative Harry Davis, Chief Executive Office Legal Policy Council Syngen Kanassatega, Senior Deputy Solicitor General Mike Hogan, and GRA Executive Director Teresa Kozumplik. Following the comments there was further discussion on proposed language and legal requirements of the hearing process. Following the discussion there was further comments from Chief Executive Benjamin, Legal Policy Council Kanassatega, District I Representative Wind Senior Deputy Solicitor General Mike Hogan, GRA Executive Director Teresa Kozumplik, Solicitor General Caleb Dogeagle, and GRA Chair Susan Klapel. Prior to closing there was discussion on reaching a compromise. The hearing was closed at 11:20 a.m.

The Speaker of the Assembly Pro Tem convened the compromise hearing for Vetoed Act 15-23 at 11:26 a.m. The hearing commenced with an opening statement from Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and an opening statement from the sponsor of the bill District I Representative Virgil Wind. The opening statements were followed by comments from District II Representative Wendy Merrill, and District III Representative Harry Davis. Revisor of Statutes Hanna Valento

shared the draft proposed changes. Further comment from Chief Executive Office Legal Policy Council Syngen Kanassatega. Following the comments there was further discussion on compromise process with draft compromise language. The hearing was closed at 11:38 a.m. After the hearing closed Chief Executive Benjamin gave a summary of the compromise hearing process and she wanted to clarify the reason for the compromise hearing that there is disagreement, but the reason is always what is best for the Band.

The District Representatives amended and approved Band Assembly Bill 20-03-21-23 (A Bill Authorizing a Supplemental Appropriation for the purpose of authorizing expenditures and budget transfer(s)/revision(s) for the Executive and Judicial Branches for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2023).

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 20-03-22-23 (A Bill Repealing and Replacing Act 18-23 to amend the FY2023 Community Development section of the budget transfers. Act 18-23 authorized budget revisions/transfers for the Executive and Legislative Branches for the Fiscal Years ending September 30, 2022, and September 30, 2023).

The District Representatives approved Resolution 20-03-20-23 (A Resolution Approving a Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity for the Contract with Marco Technologies, LLC. for Products and Professional Services).

The District Representatives approved a contract with SCR Companies to provide materials and labor for heating, cooling, HVAC and control systems for the Band's facilities in D1, D2, D2a, and D3.

The District Representatives approved a contract with Ron's Roll-Offs to provide dumpster service for the D3 community clean up.

The District Representatives approved a contract with Andersons Brothers Construction of Brainerd to provide labor and materials for the parking lot expansion at the East Lake Ceremonial Building.

The District Representatives approved a contract with Amanda Nickaboine-Meyer to continue Ojibwemowin instruction at Four Winds Lodge.

The District Representatives approved a contract with Creating Stronger Nations to provide an Enrollment audit.

The District Representatives approved a contract addendum with Jared Miller to include added duties in representing participants who cannot be represented by Band Member Legal Services due to attorney conflict of interest issues.

The District Representatives tabled Foster Care License: District I: Renewal: FFH2110006

The District Representatives tabled Foster Care License: District I: New: FFH2310003.

In the "Messages from the Representatives" portion of the agenda, District I Representative Virgil Wind opened with thanking Madam Chief and the Executive Branch for their willingness to compromise and submitting draft language they could agree on and adjust statute as needed. Representative Wind closed his comments with thanking GRA for speaking on their need for their office and they are doing great work at GRA.

District II Representative Wendy Merrill opened with information on upcoming events; family fun night bowling activity Sunday, April 16, 2023 3-5 p.m. commissioners are welcome to join.

Community meetings April 19, 2023 Chiminising April 20, 2023 Minisinaakwaang on the agenda is TERO department and Commissioner of Administration, Sam Moose. Chiminising Ziigwan pow wow on Sunday, April 23, 2023 open to the public. Planning a craft fair at the Chiminising Center May 5, 2023 12-4 p.m. flyer coming soon. Our community clean-up from May 6-12 for District II. Fantasy bingo drawings are open until May 14, 202; please contact Taria Aubid or Cheryl Miller to sign up. Representative Merrill closed her comments with if you have any comments, questions, or concerns about anything she is doing in the community or her budgeting or goals and strategies for the communities she represents, please reach out to her.

District III Representative Harry Davis opened with April 10, 2023 will be the last Timberwolves game, sign up at the Lake Lena community center with the receptionist. Representative Davis closed with stating April 14, 15, and 16, 2023 we will have the upper Midwest golden gloves tournament at Grand Casino Hinckley.

Workshop

April 6, 2023

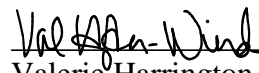
Legal staff facilitated a workshop for the elected officials and staff regarding vetoed proposed revisions to Chapter 3 (Band Member Legal Services) of Title 15 (Independent Agencies) and Section 4 (Executive Officers) of Title 4 (Executive Branch). Proposed revisions to Title 8 (Children and Families) ICWA jurisdiction/transfers and Chapter 13 (Child Protection) of Title 8 (Children and Families).

Workshop

April 7, 2023

Legal staff facilitated a workshop for the elected officials, legislative staff, and Commissioner of Finance regarding proposed revisions to Special Revenue Resolution to Adopt a New Burial Assistance Program.

The next Band Assembly meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at 10:00 AM.


Valerie Harrington-Wind
Chief Communications Officer