



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians
Legislative Branch of Tribal Government

Band Assembly Weekly Update: Week of January 24-28, 2022

Monday, January 24, 2022: Legislative hosted a Continued Compromise Hearing on the HEARTH Act bill with Elected Officials, Legislative Staff, and Legal and Policy Counsel. There was open discussion on the suggested amendments to the bill. There was no official action on the bill and the Compromise Hearing will continue.

Tuesday, January 25, 2022: Legislative hosted a Continued Compromise Hearing on the HEARTH Act bill with Elected Officials, Legislative Staff, Legal and Policy Counsel, and Commissioner of Administration. There was open discussion on the suggested amendments to the bill. Moving forward veto bill will stand and a red line draft version of amendments will be submitted for approval prior to submitting to Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Legislative hosted a Pre-Band Assembly meeting to discuss the agenda items. **Approval of Minutes:** January 19, 2022. **Reports and Presentations:** Teresa Kozumplik and Mike Hogan Re: Regulated Gaming and Continued Compromise Hearing Re: Vetoed HEARTH Act Bill 19-04-18-22
Unfinished Business: Nomination: Leanna DeJesus – Corporate Board At-Large Position (Tabled 12/15/21) and Band Assembly Bill 20-01-22-22 (D3): Band’s Biennium Budget. **New Business:** Band Assembly Bill 20-01-25-22 (D1): Appropriation/Revision for APB minutes 01.19.2022, Contract (Judicial): Addendum for Jeannie Reams to increase rate of pay, Contract (Judicial): Addendum for Cynthia Bahe to increase rate of pay, Contract (HHS): Optbit LLC for guidance and services related to I.T. for HHS, Contract (HHS): Addendum for Aniwahya Consulting Services LLC to extend the contract date and increase total contract dollar amount, Contract (CMD): Architectural Resources, Inc. to provide engineering etc. for the new D1 HHS mobile clinic – RV storage building in the Sher Development, and Foster Care License: D3 NEW FFH1930005. **Other:** None. There was discussion, comments and questions on each item. Discussed various items. Work Session schedule. Master Projects List review. Representatives lastly held open discussion of their legislative agendas, ideas and requests.

Wednesday, January 26, 2022: Band Assembly occurred in Band Assembly Chambers and through conference call and zoom.

- **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order.
- **Roll Call:** Roll call was completed all Representatives present.
District I Representative, Virgil Wind
District II Representative, Marvin Bruneau
District III Representative, Wallace St. John Sr.
- **Approval of Agenda:** Agenda was amended and approved.
- **Approval of Minutes:**
 - a) **Band Assembly Record:** January 19, 2022. Record was approved.

- **Reports and Presentations:**

- a) 10:45 a.m. Teresa Kozumplik and Mike Hogan
Re: Presentation on Regulated Gaming. Presentation was completed on Regulated Gaming process with examples.
- b) 11:00 a.m. Continued Compromise Hearing
Re: Vetoed Band Assembly Bill 19-04-18-22: A bill enacting the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Home Ownership Act. For the record the Veto was accepted with an agreement of amendments to be submitted to Bureau of Indian Affairs.

- **Unfinished Business:**

- a) **Nomination:** A letter dated November 30, 2021 from Chief Executive Benjamin nominating Leana DeJesus to serve on the Corporate Commission Board At-Large position. The current 4-year term end date is March 31, 2025. **Tabled 12/15/2021.** Nomination was taken from the table with a request for a roll call vote and the nomination passed.
- b) **Band Assembly Bill 20-01-22-22:** A Bill of Appropriation for Governmental Operations of the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches; Circle of Health; Economic Development; 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, 2022, and September 30, 2023. This bill has been drafted based on formal documents submitted by the Office of Management and Budget and the Commissioner of Administration. **Tabled 1/19/2022**
Sponsor: District III Representative

- **New Business:**

- a) **Band Assembly Bill 20-01-25-22:** A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for the purpose of authorizing expenditures and budget revisions/transfers for the Executive Branch for the Fiscal Years ending September 30, 2021 and September 30, 2022. This bill has been drafted based on formal documents submitted by the Administration Policy Board on January 19, 2022.
Sponsor: District I Representative. Bill was introduced, read, amended, and approved.
- b) **Contract (Judicial):** A contract addendum for Jeannie Reams to increase the rate of pay based on years of commitment. All other terms of the original contract remain the same. Contract was approved.
- c) **Contract (Judicial):** A contract addendum for Cynthia Bahe to increase the rate of pay based on years of commitment. All other terms of the original contract remain the same. Contract was approved.
- d) **Contract (HHS):** A contract for Optbit LLC to provide Virtual Chief Information Officer to provide strategic guidance and other services related to information technology equipment and products for Health & Human Services both remotely and onsite in Districts 1, 2, and 3 as needed. Contract end date is September 30, 2022. Contract was approved.

- e) **Contract (HHS):** A contract addendum for Aniwahya Consulting Services LLC to provide services for assisting with Money Follows the Person Tribal Initiative funded through a State grant agreement to extend the contract end date from December 31, 2021 to December 31, 2022 and to increase the contract. Contract was approved.
- f) **Contract (CMD):** A contract for Architectural Resources, Inc. to provide complete architectural, surveying, civil, structural engineering, mechanical engineering, and electrical engineering from project planning, construction, and project closeout for the new D1 HHS mobile clinic RV storage building in the Sher Development. Contract end date is September 30, 2023. Contract was approved.
- g) **Foster Care License:** District III: New: FFH1930005. License was tabled.

- **Other Business: None.**

- **Messages from the Chief Executive-** Good morning Band Assembly members and Band Members and I am currently on my way to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Meetings so that's why I am on the phone and just as an update reminder that there has been an Executive order issued for the vaccine mandate for the clinics and the ALUs and the Commissioners will be having meetings with the staff to answer any questions that come along with that and as a reminder I did issue an Executive Order at the State of the Band announcing that and because that was based on some OSHA regulations and there was a supreme court decision that changed the way things were going to be done under OSHA but as we researched and had some legal analysis on the supreme court decision it was determined that we were mandated to follow that or risk losing our federal funding in that area and so swift action was taken to get that done because we only had eight days to comply with that regulation and requirement and also a lot of discussion and research study and data was included for this current Executive Order and I know it's difficult for a lot of people when they don't know this is happening and there was a lot of issues that we needed to resolve among ourselves so we didn't send out another information document to the employees and the band members that wasn't clear and also we didn't want to have wrong information being shared among employees that would make this confusing so I know it's kind of hard for individuals when they hear about this and as going forward there has been the same mandate coming out of Education so another initiative will have to be sent about this mandate of vaccines through Education as well. We are currently working on that one just to ensure that we are following the proper regulations and laws as we are required as receiving funding from these different federal agencies and that will be issued soon and again a reminder to all the Band Members that these decisions don't just happen without a lot of consulting with Attorneys, with Federal Agencies, and Commissioners making sure that we do this within the letter of the law and I know for the individuals that don't believe in vaccines and prefer that choice is the way to go that's not how this has to be because of all of the federal requirements and the Supreme Court decision and I know there's going to be a lot more questions and misinformation out there but we try from the get go to make sure that we are accurate in how we are moving forward and trying to get this resolved and I still do understand that people want to have a choice in that and I respect that for the ones that don't believe in the vaccine, but what it comes down due the safety of the Band and as a reminder a survey was sent to our Elders to ask them what they thought on this and that was done months ago. A majority of the Elders basically said they wanted the employees to be vaccinated and

it's different from what the first Executive Order, now to the second and the current third one that's being drafted that a lot of the legal determinations were coming and as a reminder we have always asked Elders to advise us on some of these issues that pertain to the Band and that is something that I will continue to do and see the importance of that and I would not ask them if I was not going to use their recommendations in the best possible way and that is the way the Band has always been in the past is asking Elders for their advice in things of that sort. Difficult times for us with this pandemic a lot of lives have been lost with this disease and the ultimate goal is from a collective kind of decision making forum we want to be able to have people to be safe and healthy and again I still respect the individual opinion but the Band is not based on independent individual decisions it's the collective and what is best for the collective and that's how we move forward and if any of the Band Members have questions, Pete Nayquonabe and Nicole Anderson have been directed to provide input and ask questions through meetings with the staff so that everyone is clear on what this mandate means. Miigwech.

- **Messages from the Representatives-District I Representative**- District I Community we have our meeting tonight at the old Center at 5:30 p.m. there's a nice agenda with Emergency Services and Elder Advocacy coming, they'll be there. A reminder you know as we're dealing with the COVID crisis that we're in please be mindful of how you're feeling and if you're symptomatic not show up to the meeting tonight. We want to keep everybody as safe as possible there will be some procedures in place you know temp screening and what not in place to ensure that as always in the District I community meeting we have a section built just for elders so it would really kind of keep our elders as safe as possible if they choose to come out and attend our meeting. That's all I got. **District II Representative**- The only announcement I have is Community Meeting at Minisinaakwang tomorrow night at 5:30 p.m. Same rules as District I meeting. Be mindful and take care of everybody including yourself. Miigwech. **District III Representative**- A little reiteration on this Executive Order that the Chief has issued. There is federal criteria that's involved here I just wanted to explain that to some of the people listening about Medicare Medicaid that loss of certain funding under there, but also you know if you're a Band Member Native there is a religious exemption in there if you want to be exempt from it you have to fill something out to alleviate yourself from doing something you'd rather not do of course the choice is all ours whether you vaccinate or not vaccinate that's up to you, you know you have a freedom of choice and you have to fill out a paper to exercise that freedom then by all means do it. But I've said before in the past you know if you're worried about your health about viruses you know your immune system is the only thing that can cure you from anything. It's not a vaccination, it's not an antibiotic shot, it's not a pill that a Doctor can give you. The only thing that can cure your body is your immune system meaning that you must take care of your body you must allow yourself certain bacteria and germs so your immune system can combat that and build an immunity to it and that means eat healthy, eat a lot healthier. I said before stay away from processed foods as much as possible. Make sure your blood isn't toxic, make sure you have plenty of oxygen within your blood and that gets to your brain which helps you think which helps you breathe. You know we are a plant based people; you know everything we ingest as far as food is based on plant. Whether it's animals or vegetables it's all plant. Make sure you remind yourself that and get back to organic and a healthy diet that includes natural plant life. There's still plenty of bark out there on the trees still plenty of herbs that you can take that will help strengthen your immune system and take care of yourself, that's pretty important for you guys consider that you know as far as taking care of your health and healing your body. When you do that then you can also heal the mind and start thinking more on an Indigenous thought process that we all have that both in our

spiritual DNA and our physical DNA have to adhere to that. Again the weather is real cold, one thing I remind people that they don't know of is do not run your vehicles low on gas when it's really cold the way it has been you know you can suck up the moisture in your gas line and it freezes and then you have some serious expenditures in fixing your vehicle. Check on your elders when you can also your own gas tank, I know a few younger adults have run out of gas because they weren't paying attention and especially when it's cold if you have to use space heaters your electricity is going to more than double. So just be aware of the cold season I don't know about some of the cold weather rule, but I am not going to get into that right now. That's all. Mi'iw.

- **Messages from the Secretary-Treasurer-** Just an update on the Investment Committee the members of the staff here have interviewed Band Members for the position of the Band Member position on that Committee we will be finishing up those interviews this week and more than likely have a decision. And for the other positions on that board there's been some very qualified folks who are interested in serving on that Investment Committee and to help the Band manage the investments we are grateful for the interest by those well qualified people. Miigwech.

District I Representative held a community meeting for the District I Community.

Thursday, January 27, 2022:

Legislative held a work session for the Band Assembly Members, Legislative Staff, Commissioner of Finance, Assistant Commissioner of Finance, and Commissioner of Administration.

Work Session Agenda: Workshop: Budget Review – Mel Towle

Commissioner of Finance presented on the Biennium budget with discussion, questions, and comments.

Elected Officials attended the Tribal Executive Committee Subcommittee meetings.

District II Representative held a community meeting for the District II Community.

Friday, January 28, 2022:

Elected Officials attended the Regular Tribal Executive Committee Meeting.

Band Assembly occurred in Band Assembly Chambers and through conference call and zoom.

- **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order.
- **Roll Call:** Roll call was completed all Representatives present.
District I Representative, Virgil Wind
District II Representative, Marvin Bruneau
District III Representative, Wallace St. John Sr.
- **Approval of Agenda:** Agenda was approved.
- **Approval of Minutes:** None.
- **Reports and Presentations:** None.

- **Unfinished Business:**

- a) **Band Assembly Bill 20-01-22-22:** A Bill of Appropriation for Governmental Operations of the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches; Circle of Health; Economic Development; 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, 2022, and September 30, 2023. This bill has been drafted based on formal documents submitted by the Office of Management and Budget and the Commissioner of Administration. **Tabled 1/19/2022**
Sponsor: District III Representative

- b) **Foster Care License:** District III: New: FFH1930005 **Tabled 1/26/2022**

- **New Business:**

- a) **Special Revenue Resolution 20-01-03-22:** Special Revenue Resolution Authorizing the Commissioner of Finance to Assess Cyber Liability Insurance Options and Bind Coverage Only if Determined to be in the Best Interest of the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. Resolution was approved with a waiver of the formal reading.
- b) **Resolution 20-01-11-22:** A Resolution in Support of the Appointment of Rachel Shaugobay to the Minnesota Indian Child Welfare Advisory Council. Resolution was approved with a waiver of the formal reading.

- **Other Business: None.**

- **Messages from the Chief Executive-** Not Present.

- **Messages from the Representatives- District I Representative**- Just a huge congratulations to Rachel in her new role, always nice to have a Band Member that grew up on the streets of the reservation to help with our issues and problems. Thank you Rachel. **District II Representative**- Also congratulations to Rachel and pray for better weather I am sick of winter. Miigwech. **District II Representative**- Kudos to you Rachel I am sure that we put the right person in the position I'm sure you will do a wonderful job and I love this weather. Mi'iw.

- **Messages from the Secretary-Treasurer-** Congratulations Rachel (No message).