

Reporting on budgets, health services, culture



LANA CAUSLEY, DIRECTOR,
UNIT II

First off, I need to apologize for not having a report in last month. I honestly had hard feelings and thought it was best to keep it quiet, I probably will get a little riled in this one but please bear with me. Many members noticed I didn't have a report in and that made me feel good (it's being read! Ha-ha). I did get a verbal from some and the point was made, I will continue to be consistent in my reporting and thank you for reading them.

We have been attempting to balance our governmental budget for 2013, we have met weekly on the projected deficit and recently held a two-day special meeting to go through all budgets with savings initiated through sequestration and further saving that we could identify. These totals only include our governmental budget, as the casino budget is separate. In the totals below, we do receive \$17 million from our casino businesses.

The following is our current

2013 total budgets as presented per department after all sequestration affects and recommended savings:

ACFS	6,259,917
Big Bear	1,647,123
Cultural	788,941
Education	3,374,473
Elderly	1,183,403
Youth employment.....	337,031
Fisheries	1,254,604
General fund	6,069,535
Governmental	4,273,557
Health	31,775,673
Weatherization/ Sanitation	496,766
Internal services	28,291,707
Law enforcement	4,205,361
Legal	1,900,188
Self-sufficiency	2,406,150
Tribal Court	1,266,594

I wanted you to see in layman's terms the total amounts we have set and expect, if we stay on mark with frugal spending and continue to identify savings, we will balance the budget for this year on the governmental side. We have a small cushion identified and hope this is a priority for the board of directors to keep in case we have something major arise. Our casino budget needs the same kind of identified savings and attention. We are in a major budgeting issue on the side. At this point in the year we are considerably down in total revenue for all five sites combined, we have two making the mark at this time but total is down. Much work and attention is needed and it's continuously discussed at the board level. I'm very unhappy as to the politics and old way of thinking involved, better efforts to plan properly for

increased revenue and better team member/customer service is my priority (I'm keeping this short on purpose). Our surveys for team members still remain sealed and our discussion is coming soon to go over them. I personally believe that we will have many good thoughts and recommendations to improve our businesses. My next report will include the next steps for this survey process.

I attended the Elders Advisory Committee meeting in May in Newberry, this is the large group that represents the entire tribe through representative elders from each unit. The concerns and recommendations that were brought to the board who attended (directors Sorenson and McKelvie, Chair Payment) has all been brought back to the entire board and as with unit meetings and individual concerns from members, there are many items to resolve, discuss and work on. One particular item of discussion was the question as to why we were tabling the new Constitution. Fact is, the vote for the draft constitution has not been brought-forward to the agenda for a vote. There are many different views on this but, as always, I'm willing to discuss and make amendments **WITH PROPER PLANNING INCLUDED.**

At our June 3 board meeting, after much discussion and planning through our health ad hoc committee, we voted in favor to identify existing funds to include access services for Escanaba, DeTour, Drummond Island and Marquette. The total cost to accommodate the request for

these outlying areas was \$15,900. We did not ask for increased services or additional, just access to lab work and prescription pick up. I await the results of this resolution and service. I will say that there is a stall in this and I assure you that the outlying unit reps are attempting to clear it up for the members.

Our Cultural Committee is now active once again and has one meeting under its belt. I'm pleased to say that, since last September, I have been attempting to recreate a working group with members that had interest in being part of this very important committee for our tribe and its people. We held our first meeting with the make up being five women, five men and five board members. This was thought from the last and previous working group to be a good balance of members on the committee. I'd like to personally say a chi miigwech to members Anita McKerchie, Lisa Burnside, Norma Castro, Brandie MacArthur, Luann Bush, John Causley Jr., Tony Grondin, Ronald Munro and from the board Jen McLeod, Aaron Payment and myself. We will be planning to go out in each and every community as well as the elder meetings to move in a positive direction for our tribe. Our next meeting is July 29 at the Niigaanaagiizhik Ceremonial Building and ALL members are encouraged and invited to attend.

I began this report with an apology and unfortunately I must close with one. On behalf of myself AND my role as an

elected official of our tribe, I sincerely apologize for public comments and accusations on past leadership and their families who are stirring around on social media sites and during meetings. I have been in my role for nine years, no one person speaks for me nor do I condone such attacks on our members and their families. I believe current and PAST elected officials have all offered something valuable to our people. Please disregard the terrible attacks you read, it hurts us as an entire nation because our way is when one family is attacked we ALL really are attacked. There are plenty of people trying to strip us down, we DO NOT need our own doing the demolition. I've had my say in private about this with the current board and leadership and it was respectful and I hope that my input and requests for it to stop will be respected for the members I represent.

Our jiingtamok season has started and I'm feeling so happy for the time I get to spend celebrating our family, friends, community and traditions. It will be busy for all of us this summer and if you get a chance please say a chi miigwech to the Powwow Committee members who dedicate countless hours to make sure we can carry on our ways, they work hard for us, chi miigwech to all of them.

As always, please contact me via cell, home or email if you would like to meet or discuss any concerns or thoughts at Lcausley@saultribe.net, (906) 484-2954 or 322-3818.

Baamaapii, Lana