

Due diligence takes time



**KEITH MASSAWAY,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

The board has been very busy over the last few months on budgets and capital expenditure approvals. We have passed most, if not all, as I write this. We have worked hard and long but not as hard as all the employees that have to coordinate and compile agendas, procedures and spending plans. It is a very long and exhaustive task but once again we have to thank everyone for all of their hard work.

Now it starts all over again. Our first 2016 budget, budget A, has to be completed by July 2015. The cost centers mainly have to do with our education and childcare centers.

We have finalized the budgets for the year for our casinos.

We have an interim CEO of casinos, Fred Buro, whom has developed a basic plan to move forward. He has created a positive atmosphere to work in and the changes to come will be a great leap forward in how we understand and do business.

I support Mr. Buro and even though change is sometimes scary, we look at these changes as a chance to once again move the casinos on and into the twenty-first century.

As a member of the Cultural Committee, we are glad to report that our revised by-laws are now ready to go to the board of directors for consideration and approval. We worked diligently to redefine this committee and hope to roll out teachings and cultural activities so everyone can come together and learn and enjoy our heritage and our culture. We are not the culture police or out to tell anyone how, what, where or when. We are here to express and participate with anyone, our culture. Please be on the watch for events and gatherings that will be posted soon.

Even though members are upset and dismayed at the speed of our progress in obtaining gaming downstate, we are not. The Gaming Expansion Committee, which I am on, has been working diligently to move this process forward. The steps are small

and precise but they are always progressing to a final positive outcome.

The State of Michigan once again put another appeal in the courts to stop the Secretary of the Interior from putting the land into trust. We believe this will also fail because it is even a weaker argument than the previous two. They have individually named the board of directors in this complaint but it carries little or no merit on stopping the acquisition of trust land.

What it does do is delay the inevitable once again. The courts must investigate, review and rule, and that takes months. Then the state will either appeal or we will. Then months of time will pass before a final ruling. Then it might get pushed to higher court and the process starts all over again.

The committee and the board understand the process and the time it takes to move forward, even though it sometimes is painfully slow. Just remember that every step gets us closer to the outcome we desire.

Thank you for your patience and thank you for all the calls and emails.

Keith Massaway, 702 Hazelton St., St. Ignace, MI 49781, kmas-saway@msn.com, (906) 643-6981.