

Budgets: do more with less



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It is time again for the tribal administration to hand in the 2016 tribal budgets. Work on budgets starts now so we can work through the difficulties and challenges we know are coming. Even though our tribal casinos are very profitable, we have been seeing less and less revenue coming over to the governments side because business is down. It is not only our tribal casinos but all casinos everywhere are doing

less. I believe we have started to slow the bleeding and will turn the corner soon with hard work and a good looking future projection.

With the budgets now in front of us, we will have to do more with less. Priorities need to be set and taken care of. This is the board's biggest challenge. It seems each board member has a different list of priorities. If we are to move forward, some concessions and some compromises need to happen or stalemate will encompass the process. We do not need to follow the United States federal government way of budgeting and make it a political mad house. We need to work together and come to a compromise that will benefit all of our people.

The spring 2 percent cycle is now complete. This is one of my favorite parts of this job. We get to greatly impact our local units of government and help with projects that sometimes they find it impossible to be funded any other way. Helping schools with education and sports, gov-

ernmental units with roads and equipment, fire departments with training and life saving tools and many other items, this is how this money gets spent. The only sad part of this is that we usually get many more requests than we can possibly fulfill but we try our hardest.

The board has been working through many of the policies of our Human Resource Department. Right now, we have scheduled 15 policies to be reviewed and possibly amended. This can be a long and tedious business since every word is scrutinized and looked at from every angle to make sure what we are trying to say is clear and concise. We must also work hard to balance the business management side with the team members' rights and protections.

The powwow season is upon us. Check out the tribes website to find out when and where the powwows will be.

Thank you for all the e-mails and calls. Keith Massaway, 702 Hazelton St., St. Ignace MI 49781, kmassaway@msn.com, (906) 643-6981.