

Dealing with feds while watching other concerns



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Well, the federal government kicked the proverbial can down

the road when they passed a continuing resolution to keep the government open. A new showdown will happen early January and still nothing will be solved. The debt ceiling isn't fixed and the federal Office of Budget and Management must make a sequestration cut in 15 days after Congress ends the 2013 session in December.

On a better note, the tribal board did come to an agreement on a reduced budget for 2014. This budget reflects a 5 percent reduction in tribal support and a 2 percent reduction in federal funds. I personally believe the actual reductions coming from the federal government will be

much deeper, but this compromise moves us in the right direction. It was voted on and passed in October.

Early in 2013, the board commissioned a company to do an efficiency audit of our casinos practices. The board and management worked through the problems and management is starting to enact some of the recommendations. Some things are changing in our food service that customers and employees will take notice of but, truly, these adjustments are needed and are well thought out by our management team. Business must evolve and change to meet ever-growing demands and expectations of our

employees and patrons.

Many members ask me how the Lansing project is going. As of right now, we are awaiting the appellate court decision on the lower courts ruling of an injunction to put the land into trust. The appellate court is watching the Supreme Court case with Bay Mills on a similar matter. So we are all waiting. As stated over a year ago, this project is years away from happening because there will be many different arguments made by many different parties. We just have to keep jumping over the hurdles to get to the finish line.

On the horizon is the beginning of the next election cycle.

Please keep that in mind as you undoubtedly will begin to hear more unsavory things brought up and items put on the agenda to promote discord and to embarrass.

The board needs to work and work hard together. We have a very challenging year ahead. I hope we succeed as a board to show leadership and guidance to our people. They deserve that at the very least.

I want to wish everyone a beautiful Thanksgiving. Thank you for all the calls and emails.

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