

Director Hoffman: Tribe is facing many obstacles, opportunities



DJ HOFFMAN
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

The past few weeks have been a proverbial whirlwind of politics and presentations. I would love to take this opportunity to inform the membership that this time has all

been spent productively, however, that would be misleading. As a governing body, the tribal board needs to become more structured and organized in how it conducts itself during workshops and meetings to ensure efficiency and productivity. We need to focus not only on the present circumstances facing the tribe, but on the threats and opportunities that may lie ahead.

Our tribe has many obstacles facing it presently, and in the near future. Many of these are external factors that we must face head on, however, these are not the most difficult to address. The most difficult issues facing our tribe today are those internal factors that prevent us from being proactive.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Accountability is definitively

one of the greatest problems facing our tribe, at all levels. While we are not as fiscally sound or flush with cash as we once were, we are in this state because of a lack of accountability.

PROFESSIONALISM

Elected officials must be professional and ensure the membership is represented in a professional manner. We do not need to talk about peoples' personal lives. We do not need to attack people just because we have different opinions. We must inform the membership of what is occurring in the tribe and what we are doing to ensure progress, and respect the fact that sometimes people can agree to disagree. A request will be placed upon the

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next board workshop to start the development for a code of conduct for tribal officials to address this very issue.

DIVERSIFICATION

We, as a tribe, need to diversify. I have and will continue to stress the need to diversify economically. In fact, I look forward to the day that I am able to report that we have made meaningful progress. Too often the excuses made for our lack of attentiveness to economic development and diversification has been that "we can't afford to do that." The tribe cannot continue to depend upon the funding of its casinos as its main revenue generator. We need diverse income streams to ensure our tribe's future. The tribe has many talented members, as well as the resources to ensure that this diversification occurs. The governing body just needs to take the time to make this a priority.

While the beginning of this report may seem doom and gloom, the past few weeks have not been without signs of positive and productive movement. There have been discussions to address some of the abovementioned areas and I am cautiously hopeful that some changes will be forthcoming in the coming months.

In the coming months the Freedom of Information Ordinance will continue to be discussed at the workshop level until there is support for its adoption and approval. In addition, my previous website will be modified to reflect current events, tribal issues and legislation so that the membership may also lend their respective support or opposition to legislation proposed for the tribe.

Sincerely,

DJ Hoffman

(906) 635-6945 or cell 203-0510; djwhoffman@hotmail.com.