

Time to get back to work on tough issues facing tribe



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The election is over and it is time to get back to work on the tough issues the tribe has before it.

Our 2014 budgets are being watched closely but remain precariously tight, with no wiggle room for any unforeseen expenses.

Our tribal employee insurance plan has to be reviewed.

Last report, we were running a substantial deficit and we were expending millions more than recouping.

Our fixed costs in buildings and infrastructure are increasing and plans need to be made now to offset catastrophic expenses that could come from neglecting to act quickly.

Our future 2015 budget has not been fully introduced to the tribal board. I have insisted we need it now and we need to have a meaningful dialogue among all

the board members on what path and approach we will be taking.

Not one of these items above have an easy answer, not one of them can be solved without compromise, hard decisions and some painful outcomes but we, as a board, are entrusted to make these decisions and to carry them out with compassion and a comprehensive understanding of what it will mean now and in the future. Will everything we decide be perfect? No. Will everyone be happy? No. Will the tribe survive? Yes. That is our duty and what we swear to do as your elected leaders.

I congratulate and welcome the newly elected members to the tribal board. Kim Gravelle and Rita Glyptis have a big task

before them. Learning how the tribe is designed and runs is like walking out onto the football field at the Super Bowl and some one handing you a clipboard and saying "You're the coach and the game started 20 minutes ago." I remember that feeling, and it does make your head spin at night. I hope they seek out board members for insight and education on any topic with which they have trouble. Please seek us out anytime.

I welcome back DJ Hoffman. Although DJ was a past board member, much has transpired since he was on the board, but DJ knows our administrative staff and he will catch up quickly if he hasn't already.

I also congratulate the others

who have been re-elected to their seat. We have to continue to strive to make sure we don't let things sit on the back burner too long.

A big thank you to our departing board members, Deb Pine, DJ Malloy and Joan Carr Anderson. They worked hard and helped this tribe in more ways than I could list here. Thank you for your service, again.

Thank you for all the cards and e-mails. I thank you for all the support and look forward to serving you for the next four years.

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