

On budgets, roads, health and national policy



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Fall is in the air and so are the budgets for the coming year. The board will be getting to look at them for the first time this week and give their input. Many variables have to be anticipated and worked through so the budget follows a common sense course for next year. We do not want to pass a budget that has unrealistic figures and unnecessary spending in it. We will scrutinize and discuss all cost centers and budgets so we get the best balance and bang for our dollars. I will be writing more on this item as we get further into the process.

Several studies have been

completed and reviewed before the board. The road network safety analysis of the roads in and around the tribal properties and reservation was completed. It is an extensive accumulation of data that scores our road systems for the entire EUP and how they enhance or hinder our users. Things like road width and paved shoulders along with sidewalks, accident data, turning lanes, speeds and biking paths are given a value and compiled. This information is now being used to target what areas are in need of improvement and infrastructure. This study helps us plan our grants and works to show how the monies will best be spent. This will be a very useful tool for many years to come. Thank you for all who worked on this study.

A second presentation was done last month on our Spirit of Community Health study. This study delved into the public health system of the EUP. This study explains how our tribal health system works and interacts with other health systems and how it can improve those services or enhance them for the benefit of all. These types of studies typically are done in cities with many hospitals and clinics with many ancillary businesses sup-

porting a complete health care network. It is designed to meld them into a better functioning single system. In our case, we are a lot different because we are a sovereign nation that has many similar laws and rules but also some different ones and systems outside of the tribe have a hard time interacting with the tribe due to being unsure how to work with the tribe or being unfamiliar with the tribes policies and laws. This study helps identify the obstacles and the problem areas so we can better communicate and work out a better understanding of how we can bring the best coordinated care to everyone.

One nice outcome was many bubble graphs that show the interaction of all the different entities and where the tribal health system works with each. It really showed that we are very instrumental in many communities and work with so many organizations on a high level for our peoples. That was another great study and thanks to all whom worked on that.

I will be attending the National Congress of American Indians next month for the tribe. I have attended this conference since 2006. This conference is a meeting of all the tribal leaders of North America and working

on national policies and laws has always been a great interest of mine. I look forward to writing about that in coming unit reports.

Thank you for all the phone

calls and e-mails.

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