



Oneidas bringing several hundred bags of corn to Washington's starving army at Valley Forge, after the colonists had consistently refused to aid them.

Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin

Phone: 869-2771



Oneida, WI 54155



UGWA DEMOLUN YATENE
Because of the help of this Oneida Chief in cementing a friendship between the six nations and the Colony of Pennsylvania, a new nation, the United States was made possible.

*Approved &
Read - 8-20-84
Reg. mtg.*

FRIDAY, JULY 13, 1984

Meeting called to order by Chairman Purcell Powless at 9:00 A.M.

Present: Purcell Powless-Chairman, L. Gordon McLeister-Secretary, Kathy Hughes-Treasurer, Lois Powless, Tony Benson, Lloyd Powless-Council Members.

Excused: Richard Hill-Vice Chairman, Loretta Metoxen, Mark Powless-Council Members.

Others: Jerry Hill, John Spangberg and Bill Gollnick.

040-DRAFT LETTER TO THE PRESS - Bill Gollnick

Purcell asked Bill Gollnick to draft a reply to the Green Bay Press Gazette article about Oneida Bingo.

PRESS RELEASE

Recent articles have been written in the Green Bay Press Gazette which have seriously misrepresented the Oneida bingo enterprise, and which have suggested that the Oneida Tribe is undermining local civic and church organizations. In the interest of presenting factual information and to assure the people of this area that this is indeed not the case, the Oneida Tribe offers this response.

In Sunday's Press Gazette (July 8), Mr. Dennis Chaptman authored two (2) articles which emotionally addressed a comparison between Oneida Bingo and bingo offered by local organizations and churches. His obvious call for regulation of Oneida bingo based upon his perceived unfairness did not take a number of factors into consideration. Following, then, are some of the points which he omitted:

- 1) Although the Counties of Brown and Outagamie have established the Joint Commission to attempt to diminish or disestablish the reservation, an Attorney General's opinion issued only last month clearly recognized the reservation's continuing legal existence.

PRESS RELEASE (CONTINUED)

- 2) The continued existence of the tribal government, established under law and committed to an intergovernmental relationship with the federal government, clearly sets the Oneidas apart--for legal reasons, not racial ones.
- 3) The Oneida Tribal Government has responsibilities for the welfare of its members. Among the retained rights of the Oneida Tribe is the right to self-government. Like any other governmental entity, it is incumbent upon the Oneidas to reduce unemployment, work for the public welfare, and attempt to meet the needs of the people.
- 4) Because the Oneida Tribe does not hold large amounts of land and is not endowed with marketable natural resources, developmental options are limited. Promised support for the development of businesses for the Oneida Industrial Park was apparently forgotten after the Tribe assisted in the securing of support for Green Bay's development.
- 5) Oneida Bingo contributes to more than the hotel development to which Mr. Chaptman alluded. Oneida Bingo contributes significantly to Tribal employment, it contributes to health and educational programs for both Indians and non-Indians, it affords the Tribe the opportunity to contribute to the welfare of its people, and the economy and welfare of surrounding communities.
- 6) When one considers economic impact, the Tribe's contribution to its members and indirectly to those around us is substantial. The four hundred Indian and non-Indian employees of the Oneida Tribe earn annual salaries totaling approximately five million dollars. Very clearly, those dollars go to the businesses of Green Bay. Oneida Bingo brings carloads and busloads of out-of-town and out-of-state people to the stores, gas stations, restaurants, and other businesses of Green Bay and the surrounding area. Who receives that benefit?
- 7) There are fewer than twenty employees in Green Bay with more than four hundred employees. With the opening of the hotel the Oneida Tribe will have over five hundred and fifty working people on its payroll. Is Mr. Chaptman prepared to suggest that this is hurting the community?
- 8) The Oneida Tribe uses its resources wisely. Having been without financial resources for much of the last one hundred and sixty years, the frugal nature of our people and the needs which have long needed to be addressed have finally come together. The Tribe's bingo proceeds contribute to our school, nursing home, health center, elderly programs, recreation programs, etc. The Oneida Tribe can at last address its people's needs from within, and not have to rely solely on outside assistance.

PRESS RELEASE (CONTINUED)

9) While the Oneida Tribe was without funds and tribal unemployment was three to four times that of Green Bay there seemed to be few "problems" between the Oneida and the surrounding neighbors. Suddenly, there are problems everywhere. Brown and Outagamie Counties, according to Mr. Ken Bukowski, find our Bingo to be a jurisdictional problem (although this contradicts the U.S. District Court and the State Attorney General). Mr. Chaptman suggests that Bingo is undermining local charitable organizations and the Catholic Church. Citizens Organized for the Rights of Everyone (CORE) is defacto attempting to abrogate our treaties, as is Equal Rights for Everyone.

In closing, it is hoped that the people of Green Bay will consider what has been shared. The Oneida Tribes has consistently acted responsibly and with the concern for all of the people of the area. Unfortunately, that concern has not always been returned. The above notes that not only has the Tribe not injured the surrounding communities, it has significantly contributed to them in many ways. By attacking Oneida, these uninformed groups are actually attacking themselves.

The calls for "fairness," "equal rights," "equal regulation," etc., sound reasonable and appropriate, but one must look deeper. What are the underlying reasons for these sudden concerns? What will be the outcome of the courses that they propose? Will the counties have won when they unemploy hundreds of people? Will the businesses be better off for having stopped a hotel development that will bring more people to this area? Will area service providers be better off for having more people to serve? Will people's rights be protected by denying treaty rights guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution?

We look to the logic and common sense of the people of Green Bay and the surrounding area. We trust that when one looks impartially at what has been said and done, the clear view is that these unfounded attacks should cease. Then we can go about the business of being good neighbors once again.

Kathy moved to have the letter sent to the four local newspapers. Lois seconded. Motion carried.

MODIFICATION OF THE CONSERVATION BUDGET AND RESOLUTION - Jerry Hill

Jerry asked to defer this item until next week. This item will be put on next weeks agenda.

220-LETTER TO THE INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS COMMITTEE - Jerry Hill

Testimony and Statement of the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin.

This is additional testimony on the above bill on which hearings were held on June 19, 1984. While a review of the testimony given on June 19th reveals that you were provided a great range of facts and opinions regarding H.R. 4566, the Oneida Tribe would like to add its own statements.

LETTER TO THE INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (CONTINUED)

In the past, the Oneida Tribe has followed the findings and conclusions of the National Indian Gaming Task Force. The other witnesses have covered in detail many of our concerns. We, therefore, will summarize these statements and conclude with our most urgent concerns.

First, it is important for you, as a Committee, to note that the Oneida Tribe has one of the most unique of Indian gaming operations in the United States. Many other tribes have sought our knowledge in this area and have visited our operation. The Oneida Tribe has a record of success of more than ten (10) years and our revenue generation has steadily grown during that period.

The benefits to the tribe have come in several ways. The most obvious of these has been the increased employment opportunities for tribal members. The corresponding benefit to the state and local governments is in reduced application for welfare and other benefits to unemployed persons. In addition, the Oneida Tribe has been able to use the revenues generated by its bingo to replace funds lost by federal budget cuts.

The Oneida Tribe has also begun to diversify its economic development commitments by use of bingo revenues, as well. Bingo revenues have permitted the Oneida Tribe to reacquire land on the Oneida Indian Reservation for residential, agricultural, commercial and recreational purposes. All these have, directly or indirectly, benefitted the entire local community, Oneida and non-Indian, on and off the Oneida Reservation.

The most serious objection of the Oneida Tribe to H.R. 4566 is in its attempt to regulate tribal governments. The justification of the bill appears to be the concerns of the United States Department of Justice that organized crime may be able to infiltrate legitimate Indian gaming operations and that tribes were without the capacity to control their own gaming. Neither of these concerns is addressed in H.R. 4566.

The Oneida Tribe supports the findings and conclusions of the National Indian Gaming Task Force without reservation. It has not been established that legislation is absolutely necessary. Existing federal law has been found by at least two federal courts as a basis for the protection of tribal gaming operations. If legislation does go forward, the Oneida Tribe would support the amendments proposed by the National Indian Gaming Task Force. Secretarial contract approval should be applied to situations in which tribe contracts with outside management firms and consultant groups. Finally, approval by the Secretary of tribal gaming codes and ordinances should be dependent on the requirements of each tribe's constitution.

For the above reasons, the Oneida Tribe must oppose the introduction of H.R. 4566 as introduced.

Lloyd moved to approve sending this letter to the Interior and Insular affairs Committee. Lois abstained, Kathy seconded. Motion carried.

LETTER TO THE INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (CONTINUED)

Kathy moved to have the Law Office draft a letter to go to our Congressional Representatives explaining how the Tribe uses the funds that come in through bingo. Lois seconded. Motion carried.

060-LETTER TO JOHN BUCKANAGA RE: ONEIDA RESERVATION SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEM

The Oneida Tribe has been struggling for a long time to overcome the environmental and public health problems associated with the sewage treatment systems at Site I and Site II. Considerable time, efforts, and money have been spent by the Tribe to find financially acceptable solutions to this problem, but to date, no solution which is financially acceptable to the Tribe, the Utility or the Utility customers has been found. Sources of the problems associate with these systems include both inadequate design and overloading of the systems.

The Tribe feels that, because Indian Health Service was responsible for the design of both these treatment systems, and was also responsible for reviewing and approving these systems for waste loads generated by additional construction phases at these sites, Indian Health Services must assume some or all of the responsibility for the correction of these problems.

At this time, the discharge of inadequately treated waste water, is one of if not the most significant environmental problem that the Tribe is currently facing. Without Indian Health Service assistance, it is unlikely that either of these problems can be addressed by the Tribe in the foreseeable future, allowing for continued degradation of the main water course on the Oneida Reservation.

It is sincere desire of the Tribe to correct these problems, but as noted earlier, the Tribe is unable to handle the costs associated with making the needed improvements. Workable solutions to the problems have been discussed with IHS District Engineering Staff, along with rough cost approximations, and have been submitted with the current unmet needs listing.

Although the Congress has been reluctant to meet the intent of P.L.86-121, the Tribe still feels quite strongly that Indian Health Service should see to it that these problems are corrected immediately.

Lois moved to approve sending this letter. Kathy seconded. Motion carried.

340-NAMING THE ONEIDA BALL PARK

Cliff Webster requested approval to name the park "The Bill Danforth Park". Kathy moved to approve the request. Lois seconded. Motion carried.

200-LAND RECOMMENDATIONS PER MEMO OF JULY 5, 1984- Lee McLester IV

There were three recommendations.

1. Gordon McLester will release sufficient land (Resolution #7-13-84B) to Lee in order to remain where he is now located, thus H.I.P. funds will be applied to the present site and will not be lost.
2. The existing lease will be modified only as to the description.
3. Perc test will be verified by John Spangberg as to what type of system will be installed.

Lois moved to approve, Lloyd seconded. Gordon did not vote. Motion carried

The land description was not finished at this time. Upon completion it will be sent to the Business Committee.

TABLED DOMESTIC ABUSE BUDGET MODIFICATION

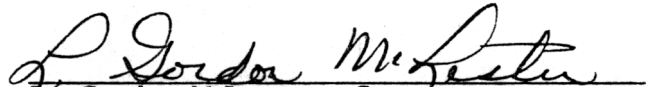
Kathy moved to take this item from the table, Lois seconded. Motion carried.

Lloyd moved to approve the budget modification to re-allocate savings in salaries. No additional Tribal Contribution needed. Kathy seconded. Lois abstained. Motion carried.

060-TRAVEL REQUEST FOR TONY BENSON

Tony requests to go to Madison on July 17th and 18th, 1984 concerning Indian Child Welfare. Lois moved to approve. Kathy seconded. Motion carried.

8:45 Lois moved to recess. Kathy seconded. Motion carried.


L. Gordon McLester, Secretary
Oneida Business Committee