



Gaa' Ching Ziibi Daawaa Anishinaabek
Little River Band of Ottawa Indians

Ethics Board
 2608 Government Center
 Manistee, MI 49660

December 21, 2020

Delivered via FedEx

Councilor Cynthia Champagne
 1080 Red Apple Road
 Manistee, MI 49660

Re: Complaint Received by Ethics Board November 17, 2020

Ethics Board Report of Written Findings

The Ethics Board has come to a conclusion to the violation that were presented to us on November 17, 2020. The board found merit on December 18, 2020. We held a hearing on December 14, 2020.

Violation: Section 4.15 Elected Official Ethics Ordinance and Article IV, Section 6(g) of the LRBOI Constitution

1. Complaint #1: Section 4.15 Elected Official Ethics Ordinance
2. Complaint #2: Article IV, Section 6(g) of the LRBOI Constitution

The Board finds weight in the testimonies given and the evidence we reviewed. Specifically, in complaint #1 we do find evidence of violation of Section 4.15 Elected Official Ethics Ordinance. For Complaint #2 we do find evidence of violation of Article IV, Section 6(g) of the LRBOI Constitution.

The Ethics Board's findings were concluded by testimony and by documents supplied to review the complaint filed. Prior minutes from Council meetings, court document, and resolution that determines Council meetings will occur four (4) times a month were factors utilized in our final decision.

Discussion

The Ethics Boards finds the following facts occurred and were relevant to the decision that your actions were a violation as outlined above:

The board offered you an opportunity to explain why you chose to be absent for the Tribal Council meeting scheduled on October 28, 2020. During the hearing, you failed to assist us in understanding your reasoning for your absence. Therefore, we find the validity of the complaint to be valid.

Sanctions

The Ethics Board reached out to you on December 18, 2020 via email to discuss a remedy for the finding of violation. You failed to respond to our email as of 9:00am EST on December 21, 2020 and as a result the Ethics Board under the authority granted in Ordinance # 14-100-10 issues the following sanction:

1. Our remedy for both complaints is a public reprimand to be accomplished as follows: you acknowledge publicly to your fellow colleagues (Council and the Ogema) that you will begin to advise them when you are absent from your duties to attend the scheduled meetings which are approved annually by Council. This is the ethical thing to do so that your colleagues are aware of your absence and do not expect you to be present for matters concerning the tribe.

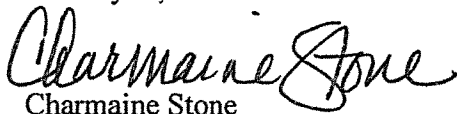
Factors

The Ethics Boards finds that you were intentional in your absence on October 28, 2020. You were negligent in your ability to participate in tribal business decisions that were delayed due to your unplanned absence. Your actions and conduct were consistent to the actions and conduct addressed recently in tribal court.

Appeals

Pursuant to Article 7 of the Elected Officials Ethics Ordinance (Ordinance #14-100-10), an Elected Official may appeal a finding that he or she engaged in unethical conduct as unsupported by the record or that an imposed sanction was unreasonably harsh. Appeals of this Written Finding shall be made only to the Tribal Court and cannot be filed more than thirty (30) days after today's date.

Thank you,


Charmaine Stone

Chairperson, Ethics Board

Cc: Ogema Larry Romanelli