

To: Speaker Ron Pete,

Good morning Mr. Speaker,

I am reflecting back on yesterday's Tribal Council Meeting and trying to figure out what I should do going forward.

As you know, the meeting's agenda was not very lengthy and at times depending on what the subject matter is, it can elicit longer discussion. Lately, the questions from those on the phone have increased. It is difficult for me to take four hours out of my schedule weekly to stay on the phone or in the meeting.

As you know, staff also tries to stay on the meeting calls and yesterday, I know Dr. Wever, and LRCR Resort Assistant General Manager, Connie Waitner stayed in the meeting. I know that both of them have other things they can be doing. This pandemic has caused a great deal more work for some staff, those two included. I am not sure who else was on the call.

I still believe there is no reason for all councilors not to come back into the Lodge Room, which I believe would be very helpful. Members who call in could still call in as they do now with ZOOM. Whether people believe it or not, it is much more difficult and time-consuming the way it is now, waiting for people to mute, unmute, respond, and just general meeting procedures.

Until we get back to some sort of normal, I cannot take the time to stay on calls that long. While I may be on the meeting calls, I may very well leave and will only be asking to be notified when the Ogema's Updates are ready to be given. I will give my updates wait for some questions and then excuse myself. While I believe we need to answer tribal member questions, email is still available for members questions.

I further have to say that the unprofessionalism shown is out of hand. Again, words like "Hiding an audit", "Old Man", "Bromance" "Shrek", just plain child-like, yet none of the members on the call seem to object even though most of these are directed at Elders.

I also need to bring up that several Ethics Boards have been created other the past year or two, and most recently, at least two more had been created and completed their ethics complaints. I believe once those reports are open items they need to be accepted by the tribal council as we do with all other committees, commissions and boards. I'm asking for them to be presented at the next available council meeting.

Finally, going back to the "hiding audit" comment by Councilor Crampton, as the meeting progressed, showed that the audit was still in council's own closed session waiting to be moved out. These are the type of constant remarks that keeps false accusations out to tribal members. Along with that, in a recent meeting the remark was made about some people running for office not being of Native American descent. I know that the Election Board was asked to clarify if, in fact, that was true or not, I am not aware of an answer to your question. Councilor Crampton was asked to identify who that member or members might be, and as usual, no answer. Some of these are very serious allegations left ambiguous. But these statements are allowed to continue, and I believe, meant to confuse members.

Please have someone contact me at the next meeting when Ogema's Update is read to be given.

Thank you.

1-18-2021

I have just learned some very distressing information. My cousins, Karol Ann Chabot and Ernie Hendrix along with 2 other Elders, Fran Pitts and Patsy Morris, accompanied Council Person, Shannon Crampton to your office today, June 17th, to present you with documentation of **enrollment fraud** that exists within our tribe.

The tip of the ice burg that was brought to you, named three of our Council Members (Bob Hardenburgh, Steve Parsons, and Pat Ruiter) as ineligible members, as the documentation provided showed they are not 1/4 Indian. Sadly it appears that other tribal members will be also be named as ineligible after their documentation has also been authenticated.

Clearly these charges need to be investigated and acted on promptly. My question to you is what are you going to do about this critical issue?

I also want to know what has happened to the Club Keno money that was rebated to the tribe? I have been told that our tribe has recently purchased the racetrack in Muskegon as well as a number of other parcels of land in the Muskegon area, to the tune of \$ 6 Million, followed by another \$13 Million. If this did occur it will be public record shortly, where perhaps the tribe will get a better picture of what was purchase, from whom and for what purposes.

I have heard you have refused to answer the question of the racetrack purchase. I can never understand your unwillingness to give a direct answer to a member's legitimate questions. You have done that to me on several occasions and I find it totally unacceptable, as I have expressed to you in the past. As Ogema you **OWE** tribal members answers to our questions. Our Constitution is very clear on that point. Your prompt response is required on these most pressing and important issues. We will all be awaiting your reply.

Respectfully,

Jolene Ossiginac, Tribal Member # 3866

Gas prices getting you down? Search AOL Autos for fuel-efficient

6/18/2008

Larry Romanelli

From: mark peshaba [markpeshaba@yahoo.com]

Sent: Sunday, June 22, 2008 11:19 AM

To: Larry Romanelli

Larry,
I am again wondering why you are hiding and beating around the bush with us, The membership? Now you really dont want to take any action on this enrollment thing. You need to either seriously look into this or step down. I voted for you as did many others. I can see now that you are a wolf in sheeps clothing. I made a huge mistake in voting for you. And who is half baked? I think that maybe it is you who is Half Baked! You are afraid of Council. So we are all going to push Council for your removal! You are not good for us! Mark Peshaba #3570

6/23/2008

To: Larry Romanelli
Cc: Subject: Tribal Business

Jolene June 18, 2008

Ogema Romanelli:

I have just learned some very distressing information. My cousins, Karol Ann Chabot and Ernie Hendrix along with 2 other Elders, Fran Pitts and Patsy Morris, accompanied Council Person, Shannon Crampton to your office today, June 17th, to present you with documentation of **enrollment fraud** that exists within our tribe.

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Clearly these charges need to be investigated and acted on promptly. My question to you is what are you going to do about this critical issue?

Respectfully,

Jolene Ossiginac, Tribal Member # 3866

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Larry Romanelli

Blood
Quantum
etc.

From: Osignac@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, June 22, 2008 2:51 AM
To: Larry Romanelli
Subject: Re: Blood Quantum of tribal members

Larry:

I can appreciate all the different ways you are pulled, however the claims currently being made against 3 and soon to be 4, of our Council Members **HUGELY** effectives the legality of business that has been done by this Council, if in fact these allegations prove to be true. To allow business to continue until this issue is resolved, **which should be the first and foremost issue you have**, is reckless and cannot be condoned.

While your email seems to make perfect sense, when carefully reviewed much of what you say skirts many issues, as well as politely blowing off your membership. I gathered from what you wrote that you don't intend to continue to respond to our emails based on your following statement, "This will probably be my last response for some time".

You then go on to state "several audits have been done with a third party audit being done in recent years" the implication appears to be that the entire tribe has been audited, is that what you are telling us? That **each member's file** has been audited by a third party? Correct me if I am wrong, but it is my understanding that our audits are "random" audits done on a percentage of the membership, and the files that are "randomly" selected are done so by the Enrollment Department. So it is very possible, in fact likely, that not all members of our tribe have been audited.

Council Person, Shannon Crampton, brought you this charge of enrollment fraud a number of months ago. He also informed you at that same time that the Enrollment Department had this information and due to that knowledge he would refuse to meet with the Enrollment Department, as such meetings could be construed as collusion and cause legal issue to him.

You also state in your email, "There are others with much more knowledge than I, who could give more information, Dr. McClurken being one of them. You ask if I have talked with Jim McClurken and I have; his view is that he believes that there are some tribal members who should not be enrolled. He does believe that we should not act to disenroll them but feels a full audit should be done." Again, the implication is you intend to do a full audit of the tribe, but you do not actually state that. I want it clearly stated what you intend to do and what type of time frame we are looking at.

To me the solution is very simple, legally **the burden of proof is on the member**, so why not have the members in question document their eligibility? If they can show they are 1/4 Indian, 1/8 of which is Ottawa blood, then the problem is ended. If they cannot document this they do not belong in our tribe. That is not asking them to do anything different than I had to do before my membership was granted in this tribe.

Larry it is time that you step up and enforce the duties given to you via our Constitution when you were sworn in as our Ogema. As our elected official you OWE that duty to each and every member and I for one am DEMANDING you do your sworn duty.

Jolene Ossiginac
Tribal Member #3866

In a message dated 6/21/2008 8:54:14 A.M. Pacific Daylight Time, lromanelli@lrboi.com writes:

Jolene,

I am responding to the latest e-mails of you, Karol Ann Chabot and Howard Bellargeon. This will probably be my last response for some time and I will explain why.

6/23/2008

There are many areas of this tribe that need attention and are time-consuming. While I understand that this is an important issue, it is well known that it has been an ongoing question since this tribe was reaffirmed; it will not be an easy fix. I need to use my time wisely and I cannot let other concerns of the tribe go unattended.

I knew nothing about a missing computer, but in asking, I found out it was rumored several years ago when they were changing to new computers.; I have no further information at this time; maybe Councilor Koon can give more information on this.

I must say that I am uncomfortable by remarks of "half-baked Indians" and "Real Indians" I thought we were further along than that.

Now I will speak to the issue of the question of blood quantum on the individuals I received paperwork from Councilor Crampton on. It has been state that the documents are authentic and have been verified. By whom? The documents appear to be similar to the ones from Northern Michigan Ottawa Association. In my past, I have helped many tribal families search their bloodlines and know the difficulties it can present. Many records were kept in churches of which some of the churches burnt down, destroying the records. The Durant Roll and the Field Notes used for determination also had their challenges with conflicting dates, names etc. Names were shortened, translation impaired the process. Red and blue check marks indicating blood quantum had to be considered.. There are others with much more knowledge than I ,who could give more information, Dr. McClurken being one of them.

You ask if I have talked with Jim McClurken and I have; his view is that he believes that there are some tribal members who should not be enrolled. He does believe that we should not act to disenroll them but feels a full audit should be done. I respect Dr. McClurkens opinion; he has spent much of his life researching our history, meaning that of all tribes of Michigan. Recently, he has worked on the book of our tribal history which is due to go to press any day now.

I fail to see where addressing the question of an elected officials attendance would be lowering oneself; I believe it is a fair and reasonable question. I believe that as a Council member and as the liason to the Enrollment Commission, much of this information would and should be available to him to research. I believe that Councilor Crampton could have asked Dr. McClurken these questions and he could have reported back to the membership the same thing I just did.

The documents given to me by Councilor Cramton last week were copies; they had no stamp of a Notary Public. The copies were incomplete where part of the signatures were missing; there were crossouts, which were not uncommon on this type of document, but for example, on one of the documents 1/2 was written and right next to it, in handwriting on the same line, is 3/8ths for someone's blood quantum. Another document for the person's ancestry for the Father's side, for husband, it lists,"Heap big pale face, ha, ha". Forgive me if I find it hard to give credibility to these documents.

Finally, after the last time Councilor Cramton gave me paperwork, I did check with the Enrollment Department and I was able to review documents that appear to show that in fact, several audits have been done with a third party audit being done in recent years. I also reviewed documents from the Bureau of Indian Affairs that show a member's blood quantum being increased, a member who may be related to the three in question. Therefore, I believe it would be unprofessional, reckless and irresponsible to jump at this without further investigation.

I intend on working on this and gathering more information. Thank you.

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Larry Romanelli

From: Bill Ossiginac [lorandsig@roadrunner.com]
Sent: Sunday, June 22, 2008 2:55 PM
To: Larry Romanelli
Cc: Don Koon; Norbert Kelsey; Shannon Crampton; Steve Parsons; Pat Ruiter; Robert Hardenburgh; Loretta Beccaria; Robert Whiteloon; Kim Alexander
Subject: Enrollment fraud

Larry:

The enrollment fraud that has come to light this week is distressing to hear. What is really distressing is your lack of attitude to the matter. How can you say you will investigate the matter to see if there is any violation or act of fraud when Shannon brings you concrete proof. Then on the other hand Norbert is found guilty, and is under appeal and you immediately put a band on him. Why aren't you immediately taking action about this much more important matter. How can we have people that are running our tribe that may not be tribal members. With all due respect to the people in question, if you can't prove you are a member of the tribe, you should be out until you can prove it. That is only common sense. I would think these people would feel the same way as I do if the situation were reversed. That's a question you have to ask yourself. Larry I have always given you the benefit of the doubt thinking maybe you were trying to be fair, but this proves to me that you do have some kind of an agenda. To take such a hard line against some people, and then something that will affect our whole tribe you just kind of take the, Oh when I get to it, attitude. I thought as our leader you would take immediate action but once again NO action is taken. Just like the information problem that you were going to fix. Nothing has been done. We still have minutes in arrears of almost three months. Then you complain when there are rumors around the tribe. If we had up to date information then people would know what's going on and there wouldn't be any rumors. How can you allow Kim Alexander to sit around and not do her job as recorder is beyond me. I'm not the only one in the tribe that feels that way. Here again this is your job to enforce our constitution. You know as well as everybody else that by the constitution, the minutes should be made public in a timely manner. This isn't being done, and you haven't done anything to correct this situation. All you have to do is tell Kim Alexander to publish the minutes and keep them up to date. For some reason you refuse to do this and I would like to know the reason. Please, don't tell me it is not your job again. Clearly, it is your job.

Since we aren't getting any information from our leaders I was wondering about the Club Keno money that we got in a settlement with the state of Michigan. What is the tribe planning to do with this money? I thought that paying down our loan on the casino was a good idea. That was one of the propositions for the money. Could you give me an update: 1) How much money did we get in the settlement. 2) What are we going to do or have we done with the money. 3) Is the membership going to have any say in how and what the money will be used. 4) Give me a reason why this money wasn't dispersed as per cap. It seems like gaming revenue to me. Maybe I'm wrong, please set me straight.

Another concern of mine is: I know that the tribe is based in Manistee but the tribe members in Manistee get a lot more perks than the membership outside of Manistee. A lot of these perks are voted on by the council. I know physically the outlying members can't take advantage of these perks, but it would be nice if we were considered, and maybe being compensated in some way to level the playing field. Sometimes I believe our leadership doesn't consider the outlying members as important as the membership in the Manistee area. 1) The outlying members can't physically make Bi-weekly council meetings and we get no information unless it's three months old. We can't physically be in Manistee to take advantage of the gas tax at our new gas station. Just to name a few. All I'm asking is that all members be treated the same. You always put at the end of your letters "We are all of the same height" those are only words unless you practice them.

Larry I don't think you are a bad person. I have a lot of respect for you as a person, but my respect of you being our leader is fading

Sincerely Bill Ossiginac # 3877

Larry Romanelli

From: jmcclurken@mcclurken.net
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2009 12:33 PM
To: Bonnie Kenny
Subject: Re: Lastest from yesterday's council meeting.....

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

mcclurken

Hi Bonnie.

Again, I am sorry to return your email soo late.- I absolutely had to close myself in order to complete a report on deadline.

I guess that your tribe is one place where the rules of evidence to not apply. The more times an untrue statement is repeated at LRB, the more people there are who believe it. Shannon is not doing me or anyone else any good by grandstanding with my name. Any judge will want evidence and he simply does not have evidence.

Let me tell you the full extent of my comments about enrollment at LRB. Shannon asked if there were people of less than quarter Indian blood enrolled at Little River. I responded that there probably are. Almost every Indian family has an ancestor who married someone of "French" origins, or of other Eurpean origin. If a genealogy is carefully compiled back as far as one can go, then many of the people who count as 1/4 blood Ottawas are not. BUT!!!! that does not matter for enrollment at LRB. The tribe has the right to determine who its members are. The tribal council that created the rules has determined that every person on the Durant Roll is 4/4 Indian blood for the sake of enrollment with the tribe. THUS!!! no non-Indian ancestor who lived prior to the creation of the 1907 roll is deducted from the blood-quantum count for the purposes of enrollment.

I finally had the sense to inquire about the ongoing lawsuit. It is not over the issue of enrollment, but is about defamation and spreading incorrect information. I do not know what information is being spread, other than the allegation that your family has ancestors who are not Indian. I do not see why disenrollment is effected at all. Your family has been determined to have 1/4 or more Indian blood under the criterion of the Tribe and you are secure in your membership. Everything else is just noise. And boy, there seems to be plenty of that.

I cannot appear at a fundraiser for either side in the dispute. Please rest assured, however, that I refuse to participate in any effort to disenroll any member of a federally recognized Indian tribe. I hope that this goes away on its own and soon, because the fight is surely detrimental to the Tribe and to the welfare of my friends. jmc