

Vice Chairwoman reports on 2012 Budget

Please note that Vice Chairwoman Lana Causley submitted her report for this month's newspaper but through technical difficulties, the newspaper did not receive it.



Lana Causley, Unit II

It's a brand new year. As time goes it the years seem to shrink. (I remember my grandparents saying that, hmm.) It was very nice seeing many of our Elders enjoy themselves at our holiday parties — miigwech for inviting me to attend.

Our tribe has finally finished our last request for the 2012 financials. We went over our capital outlay in detail — below are the totals for 2012. Budgeted revenue is \$109 million with operating profit totalling \$24.6 million. The tribal government is scheduled to receive \$17 million from the casino.

The 2012 government budgets total is \$83.9 million with \$21.7 million coming from tribal support.

Capital outlay for enterprises is \$631,160 and the casino cap ex budget is \$4.4 million. In order to run our programs, keep building maintained, update and service equipment, this is a necessity. These are the priorities I've worried about over the years and are always in the back of my mind when we are spending. Both cap ex requests have been determined to be high priority with no excess, we asked and skimmed down as needed.

My first priority for 2012 is to keep our budget balanced and keep a very watchful eye on any unplanned spending, as you know from many past votes I have been very frugal in that regard and will continue to be cautious of any development plans or unplanned, spur of moment offers or proposals. As you can see in the above remarks, just businesses and administration needs for upkeep, the request is over \$5 million. Very proper planning and not spending what we don't have is essential.

I have spoken many times on our wage review study and I am pleased to announce that in 2012, many front line workers will see an increase, per their job description (we planned for this). Please contact your immediate supervisor for details on your individual position and please remember this is a change in the works and when completed and planned for — all team members should be in a proper wage grid for their duties.

A few months back I wrote about our housing department's 5-year plan, with that we have funds available for rehabilitation for home owners, this program opened this month so please call our housing department for assistance or application. I referred many members to this program already and its a benefit for those that live off our reservation land.

I'm pleased to announce we covered the entire Unit II area in our dispersments for our Unit II requests. This money has greatly assisted our communities and to date we have received over \$1 million for just our unit in the past eight years. When I first got on the board our unit was receiving less than \$20,000 a year! Many of our local schools count on this funding and it helps a lot. Your local fire rescue and townships all have benefited in the funding. If you involved in your local units of government or schools, please remind them that the requests are due in early spring for 2012.

Our new website continues to increase and departments are doing a good job of getting information on the site, please refer to that as a guild for contact numbers and activities within our communities. It's not the "old" website anymore, so please take the time to review it and please email comments and suggestions back. We have people designated to respond and do hear from them about your suggestions.

In closing, I would like to thank all the community members who helped with our children's Christmas parties. This is real work and they would not happen without those volunteers. In Unit II, we held four separate parties and here I would like to acknowledge those who made our children smile:

Engadine—Marilyn McArthur and crew.

Hessel—Arlene Graham, John Causley, Dorthy Currie, Mona Gugin and Bob Causley for the belly and red suit!

DeTour—Lisa Burnside, Barb Gale, Dorthy and Rich Royer, Robin Seaman, our Elder Mrs. Shaw (she's always there, every year) and Dale Bosley for his belly and red suit!

Newberry—Lois Bryant, Shirley Kowalke and crew.

Miigwech! You guys pull off great parties and many parents are thankful.

I will be in attendance at our monthly elders' meeting and as always, please call or email if you would like to meet face to face with me or discuss any issues.

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