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Unit II Director
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We have had a very busy month; throughout this report period we held many discussions on the financial health of the tribe. We have been presented with many concerns, factors and funding needed for the upcoming year. Every budget comes with increased costs, struggles and necessary funding that we will need for the year.

One major cost looming for our tribe is the upgrade and security systems for our telecommunications and MIS throughout our administration and casinos. The total amount requested for the mentioned upgrades and capital expenses for 2013 is \$2.3 million. In the past few years we have prioritized and always attempted to plan properly; these items need to be completed and I'm confident we will figure the budget and move in a direction that is stable and affordable for our tribe.

It is very difficult but I'm happy to report that we have a board that so far has held the line on our spending and continues to stay the course on our debt reduction plan. Back almost nine years ago when I was first elected we were in debt well over \$700 million. Through proper planning, constraints, restructure, reorganization and resolving Greektown we are now \$33 million in debt and a little over four years from paying that amount in full. This is so important to the elders and members I speak with, I always want to give raises, increase services, buy land, open new businesses but all this takes revenue that we simply do not have at this time. I'm proud that we are becoming financially healthy. It never is popular to be frugal and a bean counter but it is necessary.

Two major priorities I have personally been working on is the tribal drug action plan and increased health services access for our members in Unit II, both have not been funded through tribal dollars at this point and it's time consuming and takes many people at the table to figure out how to get things done with either just grant dollars or existing funds in the budget. Both priorities are on track and Director Hollowell and I were able to hold unit meetings this month to talk with members and ask for input on our outlying areas needs and concerns on health services.

Our housing division and commissions presented some amazing information on housing tax credits and plans we can look into for increased housing throughout our service area. The department has been working with professionals in the business of tax credits exclusively for Indian tribes and has diligently come forward with plans for our Odenaang site and plans throughout the service area in other units. We are always in demand for more elder and family units. With input from surveys, community members and need-based information, the division and commission are moving forward to address those needs. I'm grateful for the hard work all has put into this and it truly was a breath of fresh air to see the department so prideful and excited about the plans for future housing needs.

As stated above, Director Hollowell and I held a unit meeting on Drummond Island this past month and we will be scheduling throughout the unit as well. The board's schedule has been changing weekly with meetings in the Sault at least three days a week, financials, workshops, litigation preparation and constitution reviews. Many items are outstanding and creating plans to move on things are slow. It seems it's been difficult to add items of importance to our agenda when all aren't in attendance or other non-pressing issues come up. We have a lot of business to get resolved and the last nine years have demonstrated that agendas change quite fast, hiring a CEO, constitutional amendments, additional Health services and our tribal drug action plan are the four priorities for me and I will keep them at the forefront.

In closing, I will be in attendance for the downstate Lansing meeting on Feb. 20 and our unit's regularly scheduled elder meetings. If you would like to meet or discuss any items with me please contact me at your convenience.

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