

KEWEENAW BAY INDIAN COMMUNITY

**Keweenaw Bay Tribal Center
16429 Beartown Road
Baraga, Michigan 49908
Phone (906) 353-6623
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2019 TRIBAL COUNCIL

WARREN C. SWARTZ, JR., President
GARY F. LOONSFOOT, JR., Vice President
SUSAN J. LAFERNIER, Secretary
TONI J. MINTON, Assistant Secretary
DOREEN G. BLAKER, Treasurer

ROBERT "R.D." CURTIS, JR.
DALE F. GOODREAU
RANDALL R. HAATAJA
KIM KLOPSTEIN
MICHAEL F. LAFERNIER, SR.
RODNEY LOONSFOOT
ELIZABETH D. MAYO

**MINUTES
KEWEENAW BAY INDIAN COMMUNITY
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
BIG BUCKS BINGO HALL
THURSDAY – APRIL 18, 2019 – 9:00 A.M.**

APPROVED

MAY 09 2019

KBIC PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
SIGNATURE: pl

- A. Date: April 18, 2019
- B. Call to Order: President Swartz called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m.
- C. Invocation: Lord's Prayer
- D. Roll Call: Present: Warren C. Swartz, Jr., President
Gary F. Loonsfoot, Jr., Vice President (left 1:15 – 1:40 p.m.)
Susan J. LaFernier, Secretary
Toni J. Minton, Assistant Secretary (left at 1:07 p.m.)
Doreen G. Blaker, Treasurer
Dale F. Goodreau
Kim Klopstein
Michael F. LaFernier, Sr.
Rodney Loonsfoot (left at 10:29 a.m.)
Elizabeth D. Mayo
- Absent: Robert R.D. Curtis, Jr.
Randall R. Haataja
- E. Declaration of Quorum: President Swartz declared a quorum present and proceeded with the order of business.
- F. Approval of Agenda: April 18, 2019

Change: New Business 6. Sarah Smith, CEO – Weekly Update to Closed Session 2. Personnel Issue

MOTION MADE BY DOREEN G. BLAKER TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE CHANGE. SUPPORTED BY MICHAEL F. LAFERNIER, SR. NINE IN FAVOR (Gary F. Loonsfoot, Jr., Susan J. LaFernier, Toni J. Minton, Doreen G. Blaker, Dale F. Goodreau, Kim Klopstein, Michael F. LaFernier, Sr., Rodney Loonsfoot, Elizabeth D. Mayo), OPPOSED - 0, ABSTAINING - 0, TWO ABSENT (Robert R.D. Curtis, Jr., Randall R. Haataja), MOTION CARRIED.

G. Old Business:

1. Gary Loonsfoot, Jr., Vice President – Consulting Agreement with Manny Lentine, Quadrant Consulting Group, LLC

Regarding proposed Consulting Agreement, Michigan Medical Marihuana Facility Licensing Act, Michigan Taxation and Regulation of Marihuana Act \$10,000.00 for first month.

MOTION MADE BY DOREEN G. BLAKER TO APPROVE THE CONSULTING AGREEMENT WITH MANNY LENTINE, QUADRANT CONSULTING GROUP, LLC. SUPPORTED BY TONI J. MINTON.

MOTION MADE BY RODNEY LOONSFOOT TO TABLE THE CONSULTING AGREEMENT UNTIL NEXT WEEK. SUPPORTED BY ELIZABETH D. MAYO. FOUR IN FAVOR (Susan J. LaFernier, Michael F. LaFernier, Sr., Rodney Loonsfoot, Elizabeth D. Mayo), FOUR OPPOSED (Gary F. Loonsfoot, Jr., Toni J. Minton, Doreen G. Blaker, Kim Klopstein), ONE ABSTAINING (Dale F. Goodreau), TWO ABSENT (Robert R.D. Curtis, Jr., Randall R. Haataja), TIE VOTE. PRESIDENT SWARTZ VOTES IN OPPOSITION, MOTION DEFEATED.

MOTION MADE BY DOREEN G. BLAKER TO APPROVE THE CONSULTING AGREEMENT WITH MANNY LENTINE, QUADRANT CONSULTING GROUP, LLC. SUPPORTED BY TONI J. MINTON. FOUR IN FAVOR (Gary F. Loonsfoot, Jr., Toni J. Minton, Doreen G. Blaker, Kim Klopstein), FOUR OPPOSED (Susan J. LaFernier, Michael F. LaFernier, Sr., Rodney Loonsfoot, Elizabeth D. Mayo), ONE ABSTAINING (Dale F. Goodreau), TWO ABSENT (Robert R.D. Curtis, Jr., Randall R. Haataja), TIE VOTE. PRESIDENT SWARTZ VOTES IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

H. New Business:

1. Gary Loonsfoot, Jr., Vice President – Resolution KB-010-2019 Referendum Proposal to invest \$4 million into the acquisition of the ELF Facility in Humboldt Township a medical marijuana grow, process facility, and dispensary business (provisioning)

A public meeting will be held in one week with the community members to explain the investment and provide information related to the proposal. It was suggested that the entire Council meet with Francis LaPointe, CFO regarding the Elders Trust Fund and the finances.

MOTION MADE BY GARY F. LOONSFOOT, JR. TO APPROVE RESOLUTION KB-010-2019 REFERENDUM PROPOSAL WHICH FORMALLY REQUESTS AND AUTHORIZES THE ELECTION BOARD TO CONDUCT A REFERENDUM PROPOSAL ASKING THE FOLLOWING QUESTION: DO YOU APPROVE AN APPROPRIATION OF 4 MILLION DOLLARS THAT WILL BE BORROWED AGAINST OUR ELDER'S TRUST FUND FOR A MEDICAL MARIJUANA GROW AND DISPENSARY BUSINESS? THE APPROPRIATION WILL INCLUDE THE ACQUISITION OF REAL ESTATE TO BE USED FOR A DISPENSARY AND GROW FACILITY, RETAINING POLITICAL AND LEGAL REPRESENTATION, LICENSING FEES, AND ALL OTHER ASSOCIATED COSTS. Yes or No

Motion died for lack of support.

MOTION MADE BY RODNEY LOONSFOOT TO TABLE RESOLUTION KB-010-2019 REFERENDUM PROPOSAL UNTIL MORE INFORMATION IS PROVIDED BY THE CFO.

President Swartz called the motion out of order.

Discussion regarding the Elder's Trust Fund and striking it from the resolution motion.

Break: 9:41 – 9:52 a.m.

Gary Loonsfoot, Jr. amended his motion:

MOTION MADE BY GARY F. LOONSFOOT, JR. TO APPROVE RESOLUTION KB-010-2019 REFERENDUM PROPOSAL WHICH FORMALLY REQUESTS AND AUTHORIZES THE ELECTION BOARD TO CONDUCT A REFERENDUM PROPOSAL ASKING THE FOLLOWING QUESTION: DO YOU APPROVE AN APPROPRIATION OF 4 MILLION DOLLARS FOR A MEDICAL MARIJUANA GROW AND DISPENSARY BUSINESS? THE APPROPRIATION WILL INCLUDE THE ACQUISITION OF REAL ESTATE TO BE USED FOR A DISPENSARY AND GROW FACILITY, RETAINING POLITICAL AND LEGAL REPRESENTATION, LICENSING FEES, AND ALL OTHER ASSOCIATED COSTS. SUPPORTED BY KIM KLOPSTEIN.

MOTION MADE BY DOREEN G. BLAKER TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION AND OPEN TO KBIC MEMBERS TO DISCUSS THE FINANCING OF THE MARIJUANA FACILITY AND FINANCES AT 9:55 A.M. SUPPORTED BY TONI J. MINTON. NINE IN FAVOR (Gary F. Loonsfoot, Jr., Susan J. LaFernier, Toni J. Minton, Doreen G. Blaker, Dale F. Goodreau, Kim Klopstein, Michael F. LaFernier, Sr., Rodney Loonsfoot, Elizabeth D. Mayo), OPPOSED - 0, ABSTAINING - 0, TWO ABSENT (Robert R.D. Curtis, Jr., Randall R. Haataja), MOTION CARRIED.

Rodney Loonsfoot left at 10:29 a.m.

MOTION MADE BY MICHAEL F. LAFERNIER, SR. TO GO INTO OPEN SESSION AT 10:52 A.M. SUPPORTED BY KIM KLOPSTEIN. EIGHT IN FAVOR (Gary F. Loonsfoot, Jr., Susan J. LaFernier, Toni J. Minton, Doreen G. Blaker, Dale F. Goodreau, Kim Klopstein, Michael F. LaFernier, Sr., Elizabeth D. Mayo), OPPOSED - 0, ABSTAINING - 0, THREE ABSENT (Robert R.D. Curtis, Jr., Randall R. Haataja, Rodney Loonsfoot), MOTION CARRIED.

I. Recognize Scheduled Delegation/Individuals:

1. Nancy Barr, PhD/David Nelson (via teleconference)/Senior Capstone Design Team (4) students – Michigan Technological University's Senior Capstone Design Program Sand Point Viewing Tower and Boardwalk Project PowerPoint Presentation

Break: 11:36 – 11:42 a.m.

[New Business]

2. Paul Mooney, Assistant Tribal Attorney/Evelyn Ravindran, Natural Resources Director - Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Michigan Technological University Student Chapter of Engineers without Borders-USA for design and development of civil infrastructure projects under the ownership of the KBIC

MOTION MADE BY DOREEN G. BLAKER TO APPROVE THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH MICHIGAN TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY STUDENT CHAPTER OF ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS-USA. SUPPORTED BY SUSAN J. LAFERNIER. EIGHT IN FAVOR (Gary F. Loonsfoot, Jr., Susan J. LaFERNIER, Toni J. Minton, Doreen G. Blaker, Dale F. Goodreau, Kim Klopstein, Michael F. LaFERNIER, Sr., Elizabeth D. Mayo), OPPOSED - 0, ABSTAINING - 0, THREE ABSENT (Robert R.D. Curtis, Jr., Randall R. Haataja, Rodney Loonsfoot), MOTION CARRIED.

3. Larry Denomie III, Ojibwa Casinos General Manager (not present)
 - a) Paul Mooney, Assistant Tribal Attorney - Bally Gaming, Inc. Lease Agreement (4) Games for the Ojibwa Casino in Baraga

MOTION MADE BY KIM KLOPSTEIN TO APPROVE THE BALLY GAMING LEASE AGREEMENT FOR FOUR GAMES. SUPPORTED BY DOREEN G. BLAKER. EIGHT IN FAVOR (Gary F. Loonsfoot, Jr., Susan J. LaFERNIER, Toni J. Minton, Doreen G. Blaker, Dale F. Goodreau, Kim Klopstein, Michael F. LaFERNIER, Sr., Elizabeth D. Mayo), OPPOSED - 0, ABSTAINING - 0, THREE ABSENT (Robert R.D. Curtis, Jr., Randall R. Haataja, Rodney Loonsfoot), MOTION CARRIED.

Lunch: 11:46 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

[Gary Loonsfoot, Jr., Vice President – Resolution KB-010-2019 Referendum Proposal to invest \$4 million into the acquisition of a medical marijuana grow and dispensary business] Gary Loonsfoot, Jr. amended his motion:

MOTION MADE BY GARY F. LOONSFOOT, JR. TO APPROVE RESOLUTION KB-010-2019 WHICH READS, NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE KEWEENAW BAY INDIAN COMMUNITY TRIBAL COUNCIL FORMALLY REQUESTS AND AUTHORIZES THAT THE ELECTION BOARD CONDUCT A REFERENDUM PROPOSAL ASKING THE FOLLOWING QUESTION: DO YOU APPROVE OF AN INVESTMENT OF 4 MILLION DOLLARS INTO THE ACQUISITION OF A MEDICAL MARIJUANA GROW AND DISPENSARY BUSINESS? THE INVESTMENT WOULD COME FROM THE ELDER'S TRUST FUND WHICH WOULD BE PAID BACK TO MAKE SOLVENT. THE INVESTMENT WOULD COVER THE ACQUISITION OF REAL ESTATE TO BE USED FOR A DISPENSARY AND GROW FACILITY, RETAINING POLITICAL AND LEGAL REPRESENTATION, LICENSING FEES, AND ALL OTHER ASSOCIATED COSTS. YES OR NO. SUPPORTED BY KIM KLOPSTEIN. FIVE IN FAVOR (Gary F. Loonsfoot, Jr., Toni J. Minton, Doreen G. Blaker, Dale F. Goodreau, Kim Klopstein), THREE OPPOSED (Susan J. LaFERNIER, Michael F. LaFERNIER, Sr., Elizabeth D. Mayo), ABSTAINING - 0, THREE ABSENT (Robert R.D. Curtis, Jr., Randall R. Haataja, Rodney Loonsfoot), MOTION CARRIED.

Elizabeth Mayo stated her opposition: There were no financials, no return on investment, no business plan and we are moving this forward to our community with them not knowing that.

Susan LaFernier concurs and feels it could have waited a week to review the information.

Mike LaFernier, Sr. concurs.

Gary Loonsfoot, Jr. stated: The information will be presented to the community before the referendum vote. The business plan is being worked on now. The idea is to invest the money from the account and pay it back for its original purpose which was to pay the Seniors and be self-sufficient which means solvent, and it is not right now and he would like to see that number increase by double or triple. He believes we can do in three years what the account couldn't do for itself in twenty years.

Toni Minton stated: Time is of the essence and we can provide that information before the referendum vote.

President Swartz stated: This is an opportunity for the people of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community to weigh in on this and to hear what has been discussed and have an opportunity at the public forum to ask questions. We want to be very transparent moving forward; every business venture is a risk but this opportunity has a good return on our investment and our job is to manage that risk. We are looking for direction from our community and he would like to thank the Council for putting that direction into the hands of the people.

- b) Larry Denomie III, Ojibwa Casinos General Manager - Charlie Torgerson (Charlie T's Foods, LLC) Consulting Agreement Amendment to extend the term

Toni Minton left at 1:07 p.m.

MOTION MADE BY SUSAN J. LAFERNIER TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT TO THE CONSULTING AGREEMENT WITH CHARLIE TORGERSON (CHARLIE T'S FOODS, LLC) TO EXTEND THE DATE TO DECEMBER 31, 2019. SUPPORTED BY DALE F. GOODREAU. SEVEN IN FAVOR (Gary F. Loonsfoot, Jr., Susan J. LaFernier, Doreen G. Blaker, Dale F. Goodreau, Kim Klopstein, Michael F. LaFernier, Sr., Elizabeth D. Mayo), OPPOSED - 0, ABSTAINING - 0, FOUR ABSENT (Toni J. Minton, Robert R.D. Curtis, Jr., Randall R. Haataja, Rodney Loonsfoot), MOTION CARRIED.

- c) Weekly Update – available for your review

Gary Loonsfoot, Jr. left 1:15 p.m.

4. Jason Ayres, Real Estate Officer – Resolution KB-008-2019 ILCA Recoup Account Lori S. Pate intent to sell her undivided fractional interests (UFI) Acquisition (8 allotments)

MOTION MADE BY DOREEN G. BLAKER TO APPROVE RESOLUTION KB-008-2019 ILCA RECOUP ACCOUNT LORI S. PATE UFI ACQUISITION. SUPPORTED BY MICHAEL F. LAFERNIER, SR. SIX IN FAVOR (Susan J. LaFernier, Doreen G. Blaker, Dale F. Goodreau, Kim Klopstein, Michael F. LaFernier, Sr., Elizabeth D. Mayo), OPPOSED - 0, ABSTAINING - 0, FIVE ABSENT (Gary F. Loonsfoot, Jr., Toni J. Minton, Robert R.D. Curtis, Jr., Randall R. Haataja, Rodney Loonsfoot), MOTION CARRIED.

5. Evelyn Ravindran, Natural Resources Director/Dione Price, NRD Environmental Specialist – Windsor Solutions, Inc. Sole Source Bid for the Expansion of Environmental Management Database and Connection to EPA Virtual Exchange Services \$183,586.00

MOTION MADE BY SUSAN J. LAFERNIER TO APPROVE THE BID FROM WINDSOR SOLUTIONS, INC. SUPPORTED BY MICHAEL F. LAFERNIER, SR. SIX IN FAVOR (Susan J. LaFernier, Doreen G. Blaker, Dale F. Goodreau, Kim Klopstein, Michael F. LaFernier, Sr., Elizabeth D. Mayo), OPPOSED - 0, ABSTAINING - 0, FIVE ABSENT (Gary F. Loonsfoot, Jr., Toni J. Minton, Robert R.D. Curtis, Jr., Randall R. Haataja, Rodney Loonsfoot), MOTION CARRIED.

6. President Swartz – Independent Appeals Officer (1) applicant review

MOTION MADE BY ELIZABETH D. MAYO TO APPROVE MARK A. ESQUEDA AS AN INDEPENDENT APPEALS OFFICER. SUPPORTED BY KIM KLOPSTEIN. SIX IN FAVOR (Susan J. LaFernier, Doreen G. Blaker, Dale F. Goodreau, Kim Klopstein, Michael F. LaFernier, Sr., Elizabeth D. Mayo), OPPOSED - 0, ABSTAINING - 0, FIVE ABSENT (Gary F. Loonsfoot, Jr., Toni J. Minton, Robert R.D. Curtis, Jr., Randall R. Haataja, Rodney Loonsfoot), MOTION CARRIED.

7. Susan LaFernier, Secretary – 20.2 Grievance Procedure B. Grievances with CEO or Appeal of CEO Decision Policy Amendment: The Appeals Officer shall provide a written decision to the employee...within 5 working days (change to 10 working days)

MOTION MADE BY ELIZABETH D. MAYO TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENTS TO THE GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE BY CHANGING THE APPEALS OFFICER'S WRITTEN DECISION FROM WITHIN FIVE WORKING DAYS TO TEN WORKING DAYS IN THE POLICY AS PRESENTED. SUPPORTED BY DALE F. GOODREAU. SIX IN FAVOR (Susan J. LaFernier, Doreen G. Blaker, Dale F. Goodreau, Kim Klopstein, Michael F. LaFernier, Sr., Elizabeth D. Mayo), OPPOSED - 0, ABSTAINING - 0, FIVE ABSENT (Gary F. Loonsfoot, Jr., Toni J. Minton, Robert R.D. Curtis, Jr., Randall R. Haataja, Rodney Loonsfoot), MOTION CARRIED.

J. Closed Session:

1. Gary Loonsfoot, Jr., Vice President – Decriminalization of Marijuana on the Reservation Discussion
2. Sarah Smith, CEO – Personnel Issue

MOTION MADE BY MICHAEL F. LAFERNIER, SR. TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION AT 1:37 P.M. SUPPORTED BY KIM KLOPSTEIN. SIX IN FAVOR (Susan J. LaFernier, Doreen G. Blaker, Dale F. Goodreau, Kim Klopstein, Michael F. LaFernier, Sr., Elizabeth D. Mayo), OPPOSED - 0, ABSTAINING - 0, FIVE ABSENT (Gary F. Loonsfoot, Jr., Toni J. Minton, Robert R.D. Curtis, Jr., Randall R. Haataja, Rodney Loonsfoot), MOTION CARRIED.

Gary Loonsfoot, Jr. returned at 1:40 p.m.

MOTION MADE BY GARY F. LOONSFOOT, JR. TO GO INTO OPEN SESSION AT 3:46 P.M. SUPPORTED BY MICHAEL F. LAFERNIER, SR. SEVEN IN FAVOR (Gary F. Loonsfoot, Jr., Susan J. LaFernier, Doreen G. Blaker, Dale F. Goodreau, Kim Klopstein, Michael F. LaFernier, Sr., Elizabeth D. Mayo), OPPOSED - 0, ABSTAINING - 0, FOUR ABSENT (Toni J. Minton, Robert R.D. Curtis, Jr., Randall R. Haataja, Rodney Loonsfoot), MOTION CARRIED.

K. Adjournment:

MOTION MADE BY ELIZABETH D. MAYO TO ADJOURN AT 3:48 P.M. SUPPORTED BY KIM KLOPSTEIN. SEVEN IN FAVOR (Gary F. Loonsfoot, Jr., Susan J. LaFernier, Doreen G. Blaker, Dale F. Goodreau, Kim Klopstein, Michael F. LaFernier, Sr., Elizabeth D. Mayo), OPPOSED - 0, ABSTAINING - 0, FOUR ABSENT (Toni J. Minton, Robert R.D. Curtis, Jr., Randall R. Haataja, Rodney Loonsfoot), MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,



Peggy Loonsfoot
Administrative Specialist

AGENDA
KEWEENAW BAY INDIAN COMMUNITY
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
BIG BUCKS BINGO HALL
THURSDAY – APRIL 18, 2019 – 9:00 A.M.

A. Date: April 18, 2019

B. Call to Order:

C. Invocation: Lord's Prayer

D. Roll Call:

- ___ Warren C. Swartz, Jr., President
- ___ Gary F. Loonsfoot, Jr., Vice President
- ___ Susan J. LaFernier, Secretary
- ___ Toni J. Minton, Assistant Secretary
- ___ Doreen G. Blaker, Treasurer
- ___ Robert R.D. Curtis, Jr.
- ___ Dale F. Goodreau
- ___ Randall R. Haataja
- ___ Kim Klopstein
- ___ Michael F. LaFernier, Sr.
- ___ Rodney Loonsfoot
- ___ Elizabeth D. Mayo

E. Declaration of Quorum:

F. Approval of Agenda: April 18, 2019

G. Old Business:

1. Gary Loonsfoot, Jr., Vice President – Consulting Agreement with Manny Lentine, Quadrant Consulting Group, LLC

H. New Business:

1. Gary Loonsfoot, Jr., Vice President – Resolution KB-010-2019 Referendum Proposal
2. Paul Mooney, Assistant Tribal Attorney/Evelyn Ravindran, Natural Resources Director - Memorandum of Understanding with the Michigan Technological University Student Chapter of Engineers without Borders-USA for design and development of civil infrastructure projects under the ownership of the KBIC
3. Larry Denomie III, Ojibwa Casinos General Manager –
 - a) Paul Mooney, Assistant Tribal Attorney - Bally Gaming, Inc. Lease Agreement (4) Games
 - b) Charlie Torgerson (Charlie T's Foods, LLC) Consulting Agreement Amendment to extend the term

c) Weekly Update

4. Jason Ayres, Real Estate Officer – Resolution KB-008-2019 ILCA Recoup Account Lori S. Pate UFI Acquisition
5. Dione Price, NRD Environmental Specialist – Windsor Solutions, Inc. Sole Source Bid for the Expansion of Environmental Management Database and Connection to EPA Virtual Exchange Services
6. Sarah Smith, CEO – Weekly Update
7. President Swartz – Independent Appeals Officer (1) applicant review
8. Susan LaFernier, Secretary – 20.2 Grievance Procedure B. Grievances with CEO or Appeal of CEO Decision Policy Amendment

I. Recognize Scheduled Delegation/Individuals:

1. Nancy Barr/David Nelson, Senior Capstone Design Team – Michigan Technological University's Senior Capstone Design Program Sand Point Viewing Tower and Boardwalk Project Presentation – **10:00 a.m.**

J. Closed Session:

1. Gary Loonsfoot, Jr., Vice President – Decriminalization of Marijuana on the Reservation

K. Adjournment:

Tribal Council Updates:

Through 4-17-19

- We are rescheduling the meeting related to the review of the wage data we have to next week. The meeting was initially scheduled for this past Friday. Gary and Rodney wanted to attend the meeting and since the government offices were closed due to the weather and Hannah is on annual leave this week, we'll send a new date and time early next week.
- A punch list walkthrough of the Baraga property was completed this past Tuesday. The main issue to be addressed is the tweaking of programming for the new HVAC units. We are continuing to have significant temperature fluctuations. It was made clear that this problem needs to be corrected and the contractors involved need to make it a priority. They will also be running tests on the cooling side of the system to ensure any problems there are identified before the season change over occurs. Once the outside temps are warmer and stabilized, painting of the casinos metal panels will take place. The top portion on the front of the building will also be repainted since the contractor's work was substandard. We will have the opportunity, if we'd like, to select paint colors to coincide with the Marquette color scheme or do something different. We will need to meet internally to decide what we want to do very soon.
- I reported last week that we were meeting folks from GCI, Cuningham, Dave Anderson and his associate Charlie Torgerson to review the new restaurant design. Dave Anderson has been working closely with Cuningham on the design and following their presentation, the rendering was approved. Cuningham will finish their A&E work so GCI can finish pricing the project. GCI is confident that the overall cost will fall within the funding available.
- The new reservation system for the hotel is just about ready for implementation. We continued meeting this week with the vendor doing the install to finalize the many details needed to go live on May 5. The new system will better integrate with the accounting system, provide the ability for online reservations as well as third party reservations through Expedia and allow customers to use points to purchase rooms. Along with this change will be a requirement to update our website which is in the works as well.
- With the help of Doreen and her staff at housing, surveys were mailed to each housing home. The purpose of the survey is to gather information to assist us in establishing a need for public transportation to the Marquette casino and surrounding area. I had reported a while back that I had met with the director of Marq-Tran to see if they would be willing to expand their service to that area. She was open to the idea but not making promises and requested more information, which the surveys will help. We will also be providing surveys to customers and students at NMU in the near future. The expanded service would also help with recruiting efforts and getting customers without transportation in the Marquette area to us.
- Along the same lines, I had received a complaint several weeks ago from a customer who lives in Marquette at the Snowberry Heights Apts., which has nearly 200 units. She shared her concerns that many elderly tenants had used our shuttle service up through December but due to our lack of drivers, the service had to be minimized. We were recently able to hire and get the service back up and running to include pickups at her complex as of yesterday, which our staff made her aware. She made a point to call me yesterday to thank us for solving the problem and she made many in her complex aware. Since receiving her complaint, I requested that getting the shuttle staffed be a priority, so we can run the service seven days a week, of which we are nearing.

- I participated in a call with our tobacco partners marketing manager, Ryan Maybee. He shared a number of ideas they use to help promote the brands. We did budget funds in Asemaa this year to offer promotions. We will be internally next week to further developing the ideas and concepts shared.
 - Our contract with Red Circle expired this week. They will continue to provide their services under the terms of the current contract while we finish our analysis internally. We will be meeting with them within the next couple of weeks to negotiate terms prior to presenting an annual contract for your consideration.
 - Don Messer and I met with the Pressbox staff yesterday to further discuss issues related to that area. Many years ago a decision was made to allow those employees to have a free meal on their shift. I have discontinued that offering due to the inability to control and monitor it. We also discussed concerns regarding the service being provided to customers and complaints that have been coming in. A number of ideas to improve service were discussed. One issue related to the layout and setup of the bar which will be incorporated into the upgrade plans Don is working on. We will also be looking to increase the amount of staff to ensure peak periods are better covered. It is clear that the problems we are having relate to the great food, atmosphere and offerings we have within the complex – we have to make sure that our customers get the level of service they deserve so they remain loyal and don't get turned off and go somewhere else. Wait times for food, as you have probably experienced, is excessive at times. This leads to lost revenue and poor customer service. As I had mentioned during a prior update, plans to upgrade the kitchen area to better serve our customers is being worked on and once ready, will be presented for your consideration.
 - Again a quick reminder that the Baraga Renovation Celebration event is scheduled for Saturday, April 27. Food will be provided in the conference rooms beginning at 4 p.m. with a ceremony on the casino floor at apx. 6 p.m. which will include a ribbon cutting ceremony followed by a champagne toast.
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