

WEST LAKELAND TOWNSHIP

Public Meeting

October 13, 2016

7:00 p.m.

Oak-Land Jr. High

West Lakeland Public Informational Meeting Oak-land Junior High School Auditorium Oct 13, 2016

Present: Chairman Dan Kylo, Supervisor Steven Ebner, Supervisor Dave Schultz; Carrie Seifert, Clerk; Mr. Scott McDonald, Township Attorney

Special Guests: Gary Kriesel, County Commissioner; Molly O'Rourke, County Administrator; Shelley Buck, President Prairie Island Indian Community; Lucy Taylor, Vice President Prairie Island Indian Community; Audrey Bennett, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Prairie Island Indian Community, Jessie Seim, General Counsel, Blake Johnson, Government Specialist

Meeting Objective

To provide a public forum of the Prairie Island Indian Community (PIIC) Tribal Council and West Lakeland Township Board to introduce the Community to West Lakeland officials and residents, and to provide background on the history, culture and future of the community; to discuss up to date information around the Tribe's purchase of the land in West Lakeland and the status of the Federal Trust application, and to answer questions from the town board.

Call to Order

Chairman Kylo opened the public meeting at 7:06 PM. He introduced and welcomed the special guests, and restated the purpose of the meeting. It was noted that questions would not be taken from the audience, but questions submitted in writing and put in the box at the rear would be addressed at a later date.

Presentation by President Shelley Buck

President Buck thanked the board for the opportunity to meet the residents of the township. The meeting is a first step in building a relationship with the county and township, as the Prairie Island Indian Community has done with other neighboring communities. She began with a presentation on the history of the American Indians, and specifically the Mdewakanton Tribe in Minnesota and the values of the PIIC. The presentation described the creation of the reservation at Prairie Island, how the tribe operates and governs itself, and how it relates to those municipalities surrounding the reservation. President Buck described the businesses operated by the PIIC, and how the Community provides for services for their members and maintains their reservation.

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Bennett and Vice President Taylor provided their perspectives of growing up on the reservation, and the challenges of living in the area designated for that reservation.

All members of the Prairie Island Indian Community Tribal Council are interested in building common understanding and a good working relationship going forward.

President Buck described the history behind the State of Minnesota Statute 216B.1645 to allow for additional purchase of land, and purchases that have been made under that provision. Factors included the flooding of tribal lands caused by building the lock and dam #3 on the Mississippi River, and the construction/operation of the nuclear power plant and nuclear waste storage site less than 600

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yards from the Community. President Buck explained the process to petition to put the land in Federal Trust.

President Buck indicated that the purchase of the land in West Lakeland Township in 2015 was a good opportunity for the tribe, but there is no intended purpose for the land at this time. Priority of effort for the tribe is the improvements at the Treasure Island Resort & Casino followed by the 225 acres purchased in Hastings. President Buck further explained that the Prairie Island Indian Community Ordinances do provide for standards for building construction and lot size. On the Community's Reservation, some Community members have mobile or modular homes instead of stick-built homes due to limited lending options available for buildings on Federal, rather than privately owned, land. But the Community is working on a program that would address that issue for future housing developments. The current ordinances on the reservation require a one acre home site.

Questions and Answers

Chairman Kylo moderated the question and answer session, reading the written questions submitted.

Why West Lakeland? West Lakeland is a prime location, near the metro area. This is an investment in the tribe's future.

What is meant by a good neighbor? The working relationships with Goodhue County, Hastings, Miesville, and other government agencies show how the tribe works with their neighbors. However, this is a two way relationship, and hope all parties can work together.

Will the tribe commit to not putting a casino on this site? There are no plans currently for the land, but PIIC will not close the door on any opportunity. With regard to the potential impact of a casino on neighboring communities, President Buck suggested those concerned look at the positive impact of Treasure Island on its neighbors.

What purchases have been made under this State provision? Thus far, the purchases made under the state statute are the 225 acres in Hastings and the land in West Lakeland. The land in Hastings is under feasibility study for additional housing and assisted living facilities for Community members.

Will the Prairie Island Indian Community comply with West Lakeland Ordinances? The tribe maintains their own ordinances, which are generally similar to state requirements, and it is willing to further discuss working with West Lakeland's standards to blend with neighboring communities. The tribe must follow all federal laws.

Will the Prairie Island Indian Community consider payment in lieu of taxes if the land is put into trust status? It is too premature to speculate, but the tribe will not close the door on anything at this time. The tribe offers many of their own services, but do work cooperatively with their current neighbors, and maintain memorandums of understanding with appropriate agencies.

Conclusion

Chairman Kylo concluded the meeting, thanking the Tribal Council for attending. President Buck invited residents to attend the annual pow-wow to learn more about the tribe and meet the tribe members. The meeting ended at 8:30 PM.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth Anne Vance". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered on the page.

Elizabeth Vance

Recording Secretary