

Law and Order Committee meeting

Citizens voice their concerns about community

Citizens once again voiced their concerns about law and order in the Warm Springs community during the January 18, 1982 Law and Order meeting held at the Agency Longhouse. Approximately 45 people attended the four-hour session.

Many individual concerns were brought to attention along with general policies regarding conduct for both citizens and law enforcement officials.

In the absence of Committee chairman Daisy Ike, Woodrow Smith opened the meeting for discussion.

Budget review

The Law and Order Committee budget was reviewed after opening the meeting. Expenditures for the months of July through November 1981 were presented as follows:

July—\$1,577.65; August—\$4,288.56; September—\$1,872.95; October \$4,709.45; November—\$3,695.07.

Juveniles

Woody Smith immediately brought up the fact that interpretation of the new traffic code was still vague for many, both citizens and police officers. He wanted it made clear that a juvenile, 15 years and under, absolutely had to appear in court. There is to be no bail set for juveniles in any arrest situation.

Ordinance 33

Work on several ordinances were brought up throughout the evening. All of the Warm Springs's ordinances are being revised in an effort to update them.

Mike Clements commented on Ordinance 33, the animal trespass ordinance. He remarked, "hopefully we've done some improving." He went on to say, "Mr. Burton has organized a crew to help control some of this so private property is not demolished."

Ordinance 50

Ordinance 50 was also considered. This is the wildlife ordinance. Oliver Kirk was asked to comment on it as game control officer. He mentioned that the tribal attorneys were still working on it. Certain areas of the ordinance are being changed such as rifle caliber to be used for hunting and fines for game violations.

Many people felt revision of the ordinance is necessary to protect a natural resource of the tribe, it wildlife. The herds must be increased and waste diminished if adequate amounts of game will exist in the future.

Trees should be protected along with game, Louie Pitt, Jr. wished to mention. Just as there are game laws being revised to protect the herds, trees also should receive protection. He stated, "it's pathetic what they're doing to our natural resource."

Deschutes rafting

Margie Earl expressed a concern about the permit system to be put into effect on the Deschutes River. She commented, "We will be in charge of control and in control of the permits but we won't get a fee. What does the Law and Order Committee say about that?"

Woody Smith reiterated, "we won't have enough money in the 1982 budget to control it."

Cases lost

Several cases have been lost according to game officer Oliver Kirk because areas on the river have not been marked. It was emphasized that every floater does not just float, there are the problems of trespass and litter.

It was mentioned that the surface waters of Lake Billy Chinook were "gifted" to non-Indians a few years ago, but it was not stated that if violations were made that the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs would get the waters back.

It is necessary that the Natural Resources department work with county and state officials to put regulations on the books to inform people about water ownership. Oliver Kirk inserted, "there are a lot of problems with lack of information."

Juvenile code

The newly revised juvenile code was brought up at the meeting. The question was asked whether or not mace and billy clubs were used on the youth any longer. Committee member Vicki Still commented saying "it is against the constitution. There hasn't been any brutality reported. Juveniles know their rights."

Paraphenalia

Mike Clements informed the citizens at the meeting that there had been an effort to prevent those people who sell drug paraphenalia at powwows from bringing their wares to Warm Springs. Tribal lawyers were looking into it in an effort to control what comes onto the Warm Springs reservation. Any ruling to prevent such wares from coming onto the reservation would be discriminatory, it was found.

Police Training

"What are you doing with training in the police department?" was asked. "What kind of training are they getting about the community?"

Justice administrator Dick Burton explained, "One of our biggest problems is with community relations." When dealing with community members it was felt there must be an understanding of traditions and simple good manners.

Burton stated, "We're trying our best to change attitudes," if that is necessary with police officers. "If we can't, we replace them," he added.

Burton also asked community members to inform him if there were any incidents requiring action involving a police officer. He asked that people not wait until a public meeting to voice their complaints. He would like to hear from them right away.

Legal Aid

Juvenile legal aid was abolished in December. There is now consideration to cut the entire legal aid department out. Only one legal aid and one secretary remain.

There is a concern that those who need help with legal aid will be ignored with elimination of the department. "How will their problems be handled then?"

Police position standards

"Standards advertized for police officers are too high for our people," one concerned citizen commented. With people wanting to deal with other community members by serving as police officers these standards are preventing local citizens from even applying for jobs in the police department.

Burton replied that the standards were set by the personnel department. It was also mentioned by Burton that the police department had earned a bad reputation and that officers had no way to move up. He is trying to change this.

Driving while suspended

Delbert Blodget spoke to the Law and Order Committee complaining about being cited for driving with a suspended license while at the court house for other driving violations. Burton reported that it was not unusual for this to happen.

At this time Burton also mentioned that any traffic ordinance should have safety as a primary concern. There is question as to how far any government should go to protect an individual from himself but it's possible that he might hurt someone else in the process of violating laws, so laws also take this into consideration.

Jail facility

Some positive things have been happening at the jail facility, Marie Calica got up to say, including cleaner cells, exercise availability, fresh air and better food. But she still wanted to express concern in other areas.

Community input

Mrs. Calica felt that the community members are not having the opportunity to have input into laws that are being made. She also questioned where the traditional beliefs of the people came in with these laws.

It was suggested by committee member Woody Smith that any change citizens may want should come from the Tribal Council members representing their particular districts. Citizens must work with these people.

Smith said he felt that "too much outside law is being implemented." He went on to say, "I don't like it but I had to go along with the majority."

Louie Pitt, Jr. also had a comment in regards to civil rights. He had to spend his own money to defend himself

against the tribe, he says. "One shouldn't have to go off the reservation for an attorney to go against the tribal attorney."

Civil rights violations

Improper notification of court hearings was also brought up by Marie Calica. She asked, "Why does this happen." There appears to be no consistency in sentencing and issuing of subpoenas, she commented. Mrs. Calica wanted to know what kind of accountability can be developed. Even her letters to tribal court remain unanswered she says.

Legal age

Bernice Mitchell felt that possibly 18 years of age rather than 21 years of age should be considered adult.

Non-tribal warrants

Judge Dave Harding wished to explain a case that involved issuance of non-tribal warrants which are served to tribal members on the reservation.

Authority has been given to tribal judges to enforce any lawful ordinance. This authority is passed on to the chief of police and his officers.

"My responsibility is to do what the law says." Harding commented "including following up on warrants."

Driving on the reservation

It was stated at the meeting that to drive on the reservation it was necessary to have a valid Oregon Driver's License, tribal driving permit or a valid license from another state.

Non-Indian debtors

Non-Indians who owe money to the tribes cannot be tried in tribal court. Marie Calica indicated. She questioned what recourse was available.

The answer to that was the county court system. Sometimes, though, the expense is greater than the debt. There was a feeling that Tribal Council should do something to protect the Tribe.

Next meeting

The next Law and Order Committee meeting is scheduled for March 8, 1982.

Lincoln's Birthday Powwow hostesses



Becky Danzuka



Sara Scott



Melva Tanewasha

The sixth annual Lincoln's Birthday powwow is set for February 12-14 at the Simnasho Longhouse. Powwow goers from all over the Western United States and Canada are expected to attend.

Four girls chosen as hostesses for the powwow are Becky Danzuka, Sara Scott and Melva Tanewasha, show at left (from left to right). Irma Wahnetah was not available for a photograph. All four girls are selling raffle tickets for 25 cents each or five for \$1.00. Items to be raffled include an Atari masterunit, shell dress, beaded items, shawls, Pendleton blankets, turquoise jewelry, moccasins, star quilt and many other items.

Friday's dancing events will be girls and boys war dance, 6 and under, girls and boys war dance, 7-12 and girls and boys war dance 13-16. Saturday afternoon events will include the girls circle dance and boys straight dance, 12 and under, girls circle dance, boys straight dance, 13-16 and women's circle dance and men's stright dance, 60 and up. Saturday evening the events will include women's graceful dance, men's fancy war dance, 19 and up, women's circle dance and men's straight dancy, 19 and up. There will also be two blanket dances on Saturday.