



Spilyay Tymo

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New deal for Forest Products in 2014

Warm Springs Forest Products Industries will see some changes in 2014, with the goal of increased revenue to the tribes.

Tribal Council over the past several months has considered all aspects of the mill operation, weighing many options. The Council then negotiated a new agreement with Vanport International, sawmill and lumber marketing specialists. Vanport markets the tribal timber to the critical Japanese market, among the company's other services.

At the recent General Council meeting, Councilman Orvie Danzuka, who works in Natural Resources Forestry, said the new agreement with Vanport should result in more revenue from the mill operation to the tribes.

"The deal we have now is much better," he said. "I think



Logs are being stacked for milling in 2014.

Dave McMechan/Spilyay

we'll be pleased with the results."

The mill operation was at a turning point during 2013, with every option under consideration in light of the tribal financial situation.

The mill employs about 120

people, mostly tribal members. Along with increased revenue, keeping these jobs was the goal of Tribal Council during the mill negotiations.

During 2013, the operations team at Warm Springs Composite

Products became the acting operations directors for the mill. They did this for no additional compensation. Composite Products is located by the mill.

Proposed changes to tribal code

The tribal Justice Team is proposing revisions to the Tribal Code, and the team is asking for public input on the proposed changes. The code revisions would be in regard to:

The tribal driving under the influence code; and the sex offender code. Change is also proposed that would increase speeding the fine penalty.

A public input hearing on these proposed changes is set for 6-10 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 12 at the Warm Springs Community Center Social Hall.

The proposed new code provisions are included in this publication on page 9.

As an example of the proposed changes: The Driving Under the Influence standard would change for blood alcohol content of .10 percent to .06 percent.

Another example: Fines for speeding would increase in cases where the speeding occurs in a work zone.

The Dec. 12 meeting will be hosted by the Justice Team. (Note, food and drink will not be provided.)

Tribal Council approves budget posting

Tribal Council on Monday approved a balanced budget for 2014. The budget includes an appropriation of \$13.138 million, a reduction of more than \$10.5 million from the current year budget.

Over the past month, Tribal Council has conducted district and general council meetings, hearing many comments from the membership. "We take into consideration the voice of people as we make these cuts," said Council Chairman Austin Greene Jr.

He said one concern is the need to follow the tribal member preference policy in making the reduction-in-workforce decisions. Chief J.R. Smith Jr. and others on Council also mentioned this as a priority.

They said the reduction in per

capita is another concern voiced very often, as this affects each of the 5,235 tribal members.

"No one wants to reduce the per capita, or the senior pension," Councilman Carlos Smith said. "We're working the best we can with what we have."

The problem is the reduced revenue from enterprises over the past several years, especially since 2008. Meanwhile, expenditures have remained the same, depleting the reserve down to \$9.2 million, the lowest amount ever.

The per capita payment in 2014 will be \$25. The senior pension fund payment will be \$300. The senior pension fund is in serious need of replenishing or it could run out next year. Council is reducing the senior

pension payment in order to make the fund last as long as possible before it completely runs out.

Councilwoman Evaline Patt said members of her district were asking whether the manager and directors, including enterprise manager and directors, are also taking cuts.

Revenue from the enterprises is a critical part of solving the budget problem. For 2014 timber revenue is expected to bring in \$1.8 million; Power and Water Enterprises, \$1 million; and Composite Products, \$750,000.

Indian Head Casino will have no dividend to the tribes, but is paying of its construction loan.

The single biggest source of revenue to the tribes in 2014 will "Contract Support—Indirect Revenue"

at about \$4.27 million. Contract Support—Indirect Revenue is compensation for the administrative overhead in administering grants.

Secretary-Treasurer Jake Suppah is looking at ways of improving enterprise performance to help the tribe. The tribal departments will also have better budget monitoring in 2014, he said.

Some departments spent over budget in 2013, as in previous years. This can be corrected if the budgets are monitored starting at the beginning of the year, before they have gone too far over.

See BUDGET on page 11

Tobacco restriction okayed

Tribal Council approved a suggestion from the Tobacco Prevention Coalition to prohibit smoking within 25 feet of the entrance or exit of tribal buildings.

Prevention coordinator Scott Kalama made the recommendation. He said the 25-foot standard is ahead of the state standard of 10 feet.

The Tobacco Prevention team is going to order some signage that will be placed around tribal buildings indicating the new smoking restriction. The signage is paid for through a prevention grant, Kalama said.

The question was raised whether people smoking away from buildings would discard cigarettes in the parking lots and other areas. BIA Superintendent John Halliday said a solution is to place buckets of sand in areas that are convenient to people who smoke.

Tribal Council approved the smoking restriction 7-1, with Councilman Raymond Tsumpti voting against. He quit smoking, but people who smoke have rights that the new rule infringes on, Tsumpti said.

Thanksgiving at ECE

The Early Childhood Education Center this week hosted a Thanksgiving Day lunch for the students. With the pumpkin pie are Kurtis Winishut-Tanewasha, Daiquan Winishut-Tanewasha and Walden Winishut-Tanewasha. On Thursday in Warm Springs the Cottonwood Restaurant at Indian Head Casino is having a Thanksgiving dinner special.



Patricia Tanewasha/Spilyay



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