



# WHITE EARTH RESERVATION

**CHAIRMAN** Michael Fairbanks **SECRETARY-TREASURER** Leonard Alan Roy

**DISTRICT I** Raymond Auginaush, Sr. **DISTRICT II** Kathy Goodwin **District III** Cheryl "Annie" Jackson

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December 27, 2021

## Response to the Office of the Chairman

Dear White Earth Band Members,

On December 26, 2021, Chairman Michael Fairbanks directed a misinformation campaign towards the Office of the Secretary/Treasurer in order to cause confusion around a Band member petition for his removal by citing a September 24, 2021 contract that was approved unanimously (3 for and 0 against vote) during legal session. His disapproval for the contract—also issued September 24, 2021—was acknowledged and refuted by the Reservation Business Committee on September 27, 2021. General Funds were used to support this initiative and no other restricted funds (Federal or otherwise) were appropriated. The contract was signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman has cited a Band member petition in his letter for his removal. Band members initiated this petition and they have Constitutional rights to do so regardless of my Office as the Secretary/Treasurer. The petition is related to a 2019 misuse of funds from his Office where he paid himself for the two weeks prior to being sworn into office. The Office of the Secretary/Treasurer conducted an investigation into the matter. Administratively, the fiscal violation was reported on September 5, 2019 and it was corrected on January 29, 2020 through a payroll deduction—through an admission of guilt he did attempt to pay the funds back independent of the payroll deduction.

Ordinance No. 1-65 (White Earth Bylaws) and TEC Resolution No. 91-14 (Censure and Petitions) mandate that the Office of the Secretary/Treasurer process petitions. The Chairman's attack on this office is an attempt to circumvent these ordinances since the petition has yet to be filed and processed. However, I shall reject the petition since it has not been completed within a 90-day period. Fearing for his control of the government and removal, the Chairman's letter preempts an anticipated petition filing that he assumes will be approved but it will be rejected due to time constraints. In all honesty, during this 90-day period a Band member presented a petition against myself and I even processed that petition as it is the duty of the Secretary/Treasurer.

Regarding the political accusations of his letter, the Chairman has regularly attacked the small business community of White Earth. I support small business and he does not. I believe in small government and free enterprise and he believes in big government and total government control. Furthermore, after holding a community discussion on the September 24, 2021 contract, the Chairman unilaterally released the private information of small business owners after District 3 Representative Cheryl Jackson publicly declared her commitment to the said contract. Due to his actions, the Representative has since been accused of processing several \$30,000 applications that benefited her family. When the Chairman doesn't get what he wants he attacks those that oppose him—Tribal leaders and Band members alike.

I assure the employees of our great organization that we will continue business as usual. Since it is an election year, I expect political attacks but never expected one to occur the day after Christmas. However, libelous allegations against the Office of the Secretary/Treasurer will not save the Chairman from Band law and Band member petitions.