

**Neopit
Community Meeting
Neopit Community Building
April 18, 2001 @ 5:00 PM**

Legislators Present

Wilmer Peters Jr.
Sylvia Wilber

**Community
Members Present**

Debbie Reiter
Lorena Pocan
Roger McPherson
June Miller.

Meeting started at 5:10 p.m.

1. **Sylvia Wilber started the meeting by informing those present that the Menominee Tribal Legislature is constitutionally obligated to hold community meetings and the purpose of the meetings is to let the community members voice their opinions and concerns.**

Wilmer Peters Jr. stated that there is no written agenda and if anyone has any questions, this is the time to ask.

2. **Questions and Answers:**

Question: How is the Legislature working with the schools as far as teaching language and culture?

Answer: The Language and Culture Code Commission was established by ordinance for the preservation of Menominee language and culture. Currently the Culture Commission is working with the schools.

Question: What is going to be done with the Hall House by Maehnowesekiyah?

Answer: Nobert Sturdevant proposed making the building into a half way house for ex-prisoners. Community comments: Rumors are that nobody wants the program there due to the safety and their houses and their families.

Question: Why isn't the Woodland Boys & Girls Club open anymore? The kids in Neopit have nowhere to go now.

Answer: There is financial trouble, which has been going on there for years. Legislators need to know where the Boys and Girls Club stand. Legislators will look into it.

Question: What is going to happen with all the dogs running loose?

Answer: There is an animal control officer who is supposed to be taking care of the matter. Sylvia would like the recorder to give her the Dog ordinance and possibly send it to the Law & Order Committee for review since Chief Tourtillott is the dogcatcher's supervisor.

3. **Community members expressed concern about the speeding problem.**
In the morning, several people speed even when there are many kids on the road heading to school. In Keshena there are 2 or 3 squads making sure nobody speeds

through the school zone.

4. **Is there going to be anything done about the garbage problem?**
Community members expressed their concern on how filthy the whole reservation looks. Isn't there an ordinance regarding littering and garbage? If so, why isn't it enforced? Sylvia would like the recorder to look for any ordinances regarding the matter. Both Legislators present agreed that something really needs to be done about the garbage.

5. **Community members had several concerns regarding the Menominee Tribal Police Department.**
Community members stated that ordinances were created to help solve a problem but when the ordinance is not being enforced by the Tribal Police, what good is it to create the ordinances? The Chief of Police (no matter who it is) should be responsible for enforcement of the ordinances. Lately the Police don't seem to be enforcing anything. If the dog situation would be under control, people wouldn't have a problem with the garbage in their yards. When the Police do respond and take a complaint or write an incident report, the officer never follows up on the issue. June Miller stated that her store has been broken into six different times and the Police Department has not done anything about any of them.

6. **Community members would like to know what the procedure for drug testing the Police Officers.**
Many rumors are floating around the reservation regarding certain officers on drugs. What kind of qualifications does an individual need to become an officer? Wilmer stated that he would contact Ben Kaquatosh for Human Resources. Sylvia stated that there are many concerns regarding the Police Department and the Law & Order Committee will start looking into them.

7. **Has anything ever been done about Apesanahkwat's high cell phone bills?**
Wilmer stated that the bills are now much lower than they were before.

8. **If the tribe is in such a budget crunch, then why are all the Legislators given a credit card?**
Both Sylvia and Wilmer stated that credit cards are for emergency use only and cannot be used for personal matters. Sylvia and Wilmer both stated that neither of them even use the cards.

9. **Can the Legislature look at the machines used for voting?**
Why can't they go back to counting the ballots by hand? Wilmer stated that they

could look into it

10. Why isn't the Housing Department enforcing their rules?

People have more animals than they should. There are driveways by the houses but people are parking their vehicles right by their front door on the grass. That looks terrible. Answer: Wilmer stated that he is the new Housing Committee Chairman and he plans to look into the problems he has heard about Housing. Sylvia stated that possibly the Housing Committee could work with the Law & Order Committee on certain issues.

11. Sylvia asked the people present that when the next community meetings are held, please try to get more people to come to the meetings.

The community meetings are very important. The Legislature can not help a situation if they don't know there is a problem.

There were no other questions so the meeting ended at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by
Legislative Staff Services