

## COVID-19 and CARES Act

2020 demonstrates that we must be prepared for the un-anticipated. The changes we made to shore up our endowments were well timed. Our emergency fund of \$25 million dollars for such things puts our financial situation on solid ground despite the closures. With more actions to come, some of the steps include:

- Immediate aid through a series of direct payments to all adult members. The first two of these were made using our own funds because we did not want to wait for the federal government. These funds are being reimbursed by CARES Act funding which keeps them available if needed elsewhere down the road.
- CARES Act funding currently cannot be spent on existing budget items and must be spent by December 31, 2020. We will continue to lobby to have that changed in order to provide the best level of services.
- Doubling the amount budgeted for emergency aid and loosening the requirements to make more eligible.
- Paid all of our employees, including the casino. We were one of two casinos nationwide that did this and the only Tribal casino. This expense is being covered by the CARES Act funding and resulted in payroll tax savings for the next several quarters which allows for more funds to be available for per cap in the future.
- Utilization of the federal loan program, just in case we needed it. If we do not use it, we simply return the money. This allows us flexibility in case there is another need for closure.
- Utilization of our line of credit to facilitate cash flow needs, including the paying of our employees. This action enabled us to leave our endowments and our emergency fund completely intact. We avoided locking in the losses experienced in our endowments at that time. Since, we have regained almost all of the value lost. The line of credit and resulting interest is all being covered with the CARES Act funding.
- Computer and internet funds to help youth in this challenging time of school closures will be made available.

**Michael A. Langley**  
9644 Raven Loop  
Grand Ronde, OR 97347



**RE-ELECT  
MICHAEL A.  
LANGLEY  
FOR TRIBAL  
COUNCIL**

## Long term planning

We have made moves to plan for our government and businesses by focusing on long term needs as well as helping Tribal Members by increasing funding for current program needs to the level we should expect.

- Development of a master plan and the timeline of when and how we can achieve these things through our 2033 Community Development Plan.
- Housing and growth analysis that informs us of where we need to be in order to make projects like grocery stores and other services economically viable.
- Additional apartments have been built and people moved into them.
- Elder's market rate housing is planned, site selected, and environmental mitigation put in place to allow the project to move forward.
- Home ownership site has been selected and the design work beginning. The site includes 83 acres and allows for continued growth. We look for some infrastructure work to begin this fall and I believe to be eligible for CARES Act dollars and will be making that pitch. If you work for the Tribe, these lots are exempt from Oregon taxes. Come home and be a part of it.
- Expansion of the Powwow grounds concrete pad and additional roof overhang is being put out for design with the goal of being ready for next summer. The previous two CTGR Annual Powwows were some of the largest. We are excited for folks to return next summer and expect an even larger crowd. Last year was the first year of the new turf and received many praises from the dancers.

## Enrollment

I promised three years ago to commit to ending the stalemate on enrollment fixes through my proposal of a workable "grandfather clause" for those effected families. This resulted in the Split Family Amendment. I remain committed to this work and am saddened that this did not pass.

## Protecting our Endowments

Most Tribal folks know that our previous leaders had the wisdom to set aside money to ensure that future generations are taken care of. In the last three years we have taken some important steps to continue fulfilling their vision.

- First step: defining "fully funded". This was always a sticking point. In an ideal world, the definition would be simple including the usual projections of population growth and inflation. A definition that reflects the changing nature of elected positions was a challenge for staff. We now define fully funded as based on 2018 spending levels. At the same time, keeping an eye on the potential loss of federal grant dollars and the impact that would have on services is being monitored.
- We reduced the amount of funding that can come from our current earnings. Through analysis, it was determined the 15% level was not sustainable and would result in negative growth over time.
- Instituting a 10% level of usage. This level was conservatively estimated to keep a positive trend in growth.

## Accounting & trusted advisor

My accounting education, diverse background in internal audit, operations, sales, and project management have proven to be keys to success as a trusted advisor in internal audit and nonprofit work in accounting and consulting. These skills aided in:

- Utilization of the General Welfare Act (GWA) to allow for Elder's Pension to be nontaxable. This has also resulted in folks refiling their taxes for even more savings.
- Further expansion of the GWA including non-taxable utilization of CARES Act funding to give aid to families for a total of \$2600. There are even more possibilities to explore in the future.

## Independent and Objective

Our tribe faces significant challenges that requires independent thinking with a clear and objective approach. We need to be able to check our egos at the door and find ways to work collaboratively. We cannot afford words of division that lead our future generations to wonder why we chose that path instead of fighting for and with each other as well as other Tribes.

Those words above were my words three years ago. We often come to unanimous consent and when there is disagreement it is worked through in a way that does not prevent progress on our service.

Outreach to other Tribes has also improved. Siletz has rejoined the Oregon Tribal Gaming Alliance and our partnership at Chemawa Station is moving forward after 20 years of no agreement.

Showing up for the hard votes and communicating my reasoning behind them is something I committed to three years ago. I participate in Facebook discussions and write both in the Tilixam Wawa as well as my own blog.

Access is key to communication and many have showed up at my office on a Friday afternoon for my open door hours. Local folks, especially those in housing, know they can talk to me in person at our home. Many take that opportunity while I am in my garden or working on our yard.

**Please visit my website  
for more discussion**

**[www.4michael-langley.com](http://www.4michael-langley.com) or  
by phone: 360.430.0806**