

Laura Belsky

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Paula Hart, Director, Office of Indian Gaming
Office of Indian Gaming-Indian Affairs Director Paula L. Hart | Indian Affairs (bia.gov)
202-219-4066 (main)
Paula.Hart@BIA.gov

Dear Ms. Hart -

As you are aware, the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin has filed an application on May 2, 2023 with the BIA to take land located in Kenosha, Wisconsin into trust and receive approval from the BIA to engage gaming activities on the Kenosha parcel.

The County Board was made aware of two separate IGA's (City and County), from the announcement of the City of Kenosha's Committee of the Whole meeting on November 7, 2023. The Kenosha County Board Supervisors were not made aware prior to the City's announcement. We were provide the County's IGA, via email, on November 9, 2023.

County Board Supervisors are concerned that we do not have all the information, including traffic studies, to make an educated decision.

The County is being told that if we (the County Supervisors) don't sign an IGA before or at the same time as the City signs its IGA with the Menominee Tribe next week Monday, November 20th, 2023, the County will be barred from further negotiating with the Menominee Tribe on its IGA and/or if we do not approve the current IGA, we (County) will be left paying for all of the costs associated with supporting the Menominee Tribe's gaming activities and land uses without any compensation from the Tribe.

We are scheduled to vote on approving the IGA on Tuesday, November 21, 2023 but we were only presented a draft of the IGA for the first time on Thursday, November 9, 2023.

Thank you for any insight that you can provide us on such short notice.

Laura Belsky
Kenosha County Supervisor
District 4
262.705.5722 (Mobile)

Hart

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Good afternoon, Laura,

Yes, we are aware of the Menominee Tribe's gaming application for land in Kenosha, Wisconsin. There is no time limit when negotiating an IGA with the Tribe, in some cases, those agreements are entered into once the land is in trust. Also, there is no time "bar" from entering into that agreement. And nothing that says you have to sign at the same time as the city.

As you know, state entities cannot tax, fee, assess or charge for negotiating with the Tribe but payments to local governments for services provided is acceptable.

I hope this answers your question.

Paula L. Hart
Director, Office of Indian Gaming

Laura Belsky

> To: CountyBoard

Good afternoon,

Several supervisors are concerned that if we do not sign THIS IGA [next Tuesday](#), we will be on the hook to pay for services and will have no ability for reimbursement from the tribe. I reached out to the BIA [this morning](#) and received an immediate response. There is absolutely no rush to sign this agreement and it does not impact the Menominee application with the BIA. Please see Director Paula Harts response to my questions.

I am simply saying this is too rushed. I want to work in good faith with the tribe. I think we do ourselves and our community a disservice to put this up for a vote [next Tuesday](#) with so many unanswered questions and a comprehensive understanding of the potential financial impacts to all of the county services.

Please advocate for delaying this vote until we receive the required information to make an educated and well informed decision. There is absolutely no reason to RUSH this through.

Thank you,
Supervisor Laura Belsky
[262-705-5722](tel:262-705-5722)

