

Oneida c.c.c. Bldg.

February 24, 1960

Present at meeting

Mr. E.J. Riley—Superintendent from Ashland, is.
Marshall Hall—Dept. of Interior Ashland, Wis.

Mr. Franklin Skogstad—Industrial Development Specialist (Bureau of Indian Affairs)

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hill—Oneida Town Chairman

Mr. John Vandening—Oneida Town Clerk

Mr. Gerald Schievers—Town Supervisor

Members of Oneida Executive Committee—Julius Danforth, Chairman; Irene Moore, Vice-chairman, Althea Schuyler, Treasure, Eva Danforth, Secretary, Sabie Danforth, Credit Committee.

A meeting was held by the Oneida Executive Committee with the Oneida Town board on Wednesday evening February 24th at 8 o'clock p.m. on the subject of taxing personal properties on Tribal lands in the town of Oneida. The chairman of the Oneida Executive Committee called on Mr. Riley to explain a letter from the Field Solicitors office in Minneapolis, Minn. Concerning the above subject. Their opinion stated that town assessments on restricted properties on the reservation were clearly illegal and should be cancelled by appropriate town board action. Mr. Riley also explained that the Solicitor comes under the Dept. of the Interior and not the Dept. of Indian Affairs and that until such laws should be changed by an act of Congress that they shall remain as such. Mr. Riley asked the chairman of the Oneida town board if he was satisfied with the explanation of the Solicitors opinion. Mr. Hill stated he was satisfied with the explanation, but didn't like it.

The question of maintaining and graveling town roads adjoining Indian lands in the area was again brought up. Mr. Hill stated that the roads in question had not been brought to his attention and there certainly had been no discrimination.

Mr. Skogstad from the Dept. of Industrial Development was present to explain the program set up by the Federal government where-by the federal government finances on-the-job training for any Industry that locates on or near Indian reservations. He stated that he had received a letter from Congressman Byrnes stating that the Women League of Voters Appleton had written him expressing much disappointment to note that Oneida was not mentioned as a possible sight for Industrial Development. He reported that he had contacted some Industrial leaders in near-by areas and found they were interested in the program as a possibility of on-the-job training for Indians but he himself felt that the reservation itself lacked many necessary facilities for industry.

United States
Department of the Interior
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Great Lakes Agency
Ashland, Wisconsin

Eva Danforth, Secretary
Oneida Executive Committee
Route 2
West DePere, Wisconsin

July 29, 1960

Dear Mrs. Danforth:

We have your letter of July 20 inviting me to attend a meeting scheduled for Monday evening, August 1.

I am sorry I cannot attend as I have a previous commitment. However Mr. Marshall Hall, Field representative, will be in that area and will be present at your meeting.

It would appear from your communication that at the caucus meeting, it was voted to retain the same Committee for another year. This action would be correct if there was an insufficient number present to hold the caucus. However, I do want to point out that if a quorum for a caucus was present, then the action in the caucus voting to retain the Executive Committee would not be legal. In other words, if a caucus quorum was present, it would be necessary to nominate and establish an election date, as it would not be permissible to vote-in members for the Executive Committee. The present incumbents could only be retained for another term (without holding an actual election) if an insufficient number were present to permit holding the caucus.

Sincerely yours,

E.J. Riley
Superintendent

CC: Julius Danforth, Chairman
M. J. Hall, Field Repr.

Name of Tribe- Oneida Indians Inc.

Minutes of meeting held by—General Council—Eva Danforth

Date of Meeting—March 4, 1960

Place of Meeting—Oneida Methodist Hall

Regular or Special—Special

Was a quorum present—Yes

Name and Title of Council members present—Julius Danforth-Ch. Irene Moore- Vice
Chairman, Althea Schuyler-Treasure, and Eva Danforth.

Vesting Officials-none

MINUTES

Meeting was called to order by the Chairman Julius Danforth at 8pm. Chairman then called on Leslie Danforth to count the number of people present. Number reported present at opening of meeting (57) Letter was read by Althea Schuyler from the office of the Tribal Lawyers Aaron, Aaron, Schimberg and Hess proposing that the Tribe adopt a resolution requesting the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to take necessary action to extend the contract between the Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin and the said law firm for an additional period of five years, for the handling of tribal claims against the United States. Motion by Leslie Danforth to accept the resolution as read. Seconded by Van Oy Thomas carried. Chairman called on Althea Schuyler to read a report on a special meeting between the town board of Oneida and the Oneida Executive Committee. Mrs. Irene Moore reported she had called Mr. Riley about the present meeting and explained that he could not be there as the meeting was called on very short notice. The secretary was requested to send a copy of minutes, along with a copy of the adopted resolution to Mr. Riley immediately, so he could in turn take necessary action to report to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. A discussion was held concerning the tribal buildings at the C.C.C. Camp/. A motion was made after much discussion to authorize the Executive Committee to make necessary repairs when money is available by Leslie Danforth. Seconded by Dennison Hill, Carried. Anthony Skenandore, James Schuyler, James Skenandore, and Andrew Parker volunteered to donate labor. A general discussion was held concerning the financial status of the tribe in regards to Rehabilitation and tribal funds. It was recommended that the Executive Committee enforce the Constitution and Py-laws. Mrs. Vivian Dakota reported to the Tribe the progress of the newly organized health and welfare committee and made a special appeal to everyone to exercise their voting in school and the town elections. Motion by Dennison Hill to adjourn, seconded by Vivian Dakota. Carried

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
Bureau of the Budget
Washington 25, D. C.

May 5, 1960

Miss Eva Danforth
Tribal Secretary
Oneida Executive Committee
Route 2
West DePere, Wisconsin

Dear Miss Danforth

The president has referred to the Bureau of the budget for reply your letter of April 25, 1960, protesting the acquisition of _____ Indian land required for construction of the Allegheny (_____) Dam.

Your thoughtfulness in making known to the President the views of the Oneida Tribe of Indians on this matter is very much appreciated. However, we must advise you that on the basis of careful studies by the Corps of Engineers and by independent engineering firm, the chief of Engineers has decided that the Allegheny reservoir is the most economical solution to the problems of the Allegheny River basin. Furthermore, the Supreme Court recently refused to hear and appeal from a lower court decision that the taking of Indian lands for the Allegheny Reservoir had been legally authorized by the Congress. These actions together with subsequent action by the Congress in appropriating funds for construction of the project as authorized, appear to have resolved the major points at issue.

The Department of the Army has assured this Bureau that land necessary for construction of the Allegheny Dam will be acquired in an equitable manner and in such a way as to minimize inconvenience in hardship to the Seneca tribe or other owners within the taking limits.

We hope that this information will clarify our position with respect to this project.

Sincerely yours

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Carl H. Schwartz, Jr. Chief
Resources and Civil Works Division

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

May 13, 1960

Dear Friend:

As you probable already been advised, the House Interior and Insular Affairs Indian Subcommittee will hold hearings on May 31st and June 2nd on H.R. 7701, a bill termed "Operation Bootstrap- Reservation Style" intended to provide the necessary inducement to bring industrial development to the Indian reservations across the United States.

I am enclosing a somewhat detailed explanation of the bill, but briefly what the bill does is offer a ten-year tax exemption to any industry entering into a contract with the tribal governing body, approved by the Secretary of Interior, to locate on that reservation and to provide employment for the Indian people.

The bill also authorizes the Tribal Council to borrow money from the revolving fund to construct, if necessary, the housing for the industry, in turn, disposing of it to the company either by sale on a long-term basis or a long-term lease.

The bill follows the industrial program in Puerto Rico which was dubbed "operation Bootstrap" and which was responsible for inducing some 600 industries to move to little island. If it can be done in Puerto Rico, it can be done on every Indian reservation in the United States, and this is the time for the Indian people to get behind the program for the good of yourselves and your children.

It would ask that the Tribal Council pass a resolution something along the line of one enclosed. It should, of course, vary somewhat, depending upon conditions but you can use this as a sample.

If the full Council does not meet before May 31st, possible the Executive Committee could pass the resolution and get it back to me in time to be made a part of the hearings on May 31st.

Thanking you, and with my kind regards and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

E. Y. BERRY

Department of the Interior,
United States Indian Service,
Oneida School, Wisconsin,
October 14, 1909

To the Oneida Indians:

Some members of the tribe have complained to the commissioner of Indian Affairs against the issue of patents in fee, as being contrary to the Dawes Act (Feb. 8, 1887); against the organization of Hobart Township as being illegal; and against taxes being levied and collected on reservation lands and personal property.

It was a part of my work here to investigate these matters, and that all may understand me alike, I set forth below a few conclusion as to the law and the rights of the State and the Indians.

1 While the Dawes Act provided that the lands allotted should be held 25 years, congress has since change this law so as to allow some of the lands to be sold and so that allot tees capable of handling their own affairs could get their patents in fee before the 25 years were up.

Congress has a right to change these laws, and it did not need to ask the Indian tribes whether they were willing.

2 When congress changed the law so as to allow some lands to be sold and some patented it provided that all lands thus sold or patented might be taxed by the state. This can be done whether the deeds or patents are recorded at the county seats or not.

3 The State has the right to organize a town government in the Oneida reservation, and when such organization has been made the assessor has a right to assess the lands and personal property (except lands not patented). If the owners fail or refuse to pay the taxes the property may be sold, but in case of lands the purchaser does not get a deed for three years, during which three years the may pay the taxes (Including all costs and interest) and thus keep his land.

4 The organization of the town of Hobart was at first thought to be illegal by many of the land owners, and it may have been. All but a few land owners have now paid their taxes rather than go to law, and my advice to the Indians is to do the same. It would cost a great deal of money to go to law, and you might lose. Even if the first organization should be illegal, another organization could be made that would correct the errors of the first.

5 Personal property belonging to the Oneida allottees, and not given them by the Government, may be taxed whether such allottees have a patent in fee for their lands or not. Each person has a right to know what personal property is assessed against him, and if mistake is made it should be reported to the proper county officials for correction.

6 The Oneida allottees are citizens just as much before getting patents in fee as afterward, and have a right to vote of hold office, buy or sell (except lands not patented), sue or be sued, the same as white citizens.

7 When an Indian gets his patent in fee he does not lose any tribal rights to annuities or other benefits he had before his land was patented.

8 The State has nothing to do with the old Indian council, and instead of the council it offers the election and the ballot box. It is the duty of each Indian voter to go to the election and vote for good, honest men, who will take good care of the tax moneys, and in that way speak for what they want instead of the old council. Each citizen Indian must also see that his rights are protected just as white men do, for the state does not look after that as the Government has done for you in the past.

9 The Government can not interfere with the State in organizing town governments or collecting taxes on lands sold or parented. But the officers of the Government may advise with the Indians in all such matters, either before or after they get their patents in fee.

While the Government turns the land loose when it gives patents in fee, and the Indians may then do with the land as they please, it would be safer for them to advise with the Superintendent before doing any thing with the land, and especially all who can not read or write should bring to him all papers about their lands and have them read and explained before signing them. Let him tell you what it is before putting your name to it, for he will charge you nothing and it may save you your land later.

Very respectfully,

Supervisor

Present at meeting:

Mr. E. J. Riley--Superintendent from Ashland, Wis.
Marshall Hall--Dept. of Interior Ashland Wis.
Mr. Franklin Skogstad-- Industrial Development Specialist (Bureau of Indian Affairs)

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hill--Oneida Town Chairmen

Mr. John VanDening--Oneida Town Clerk

Mr. Gerald Schievers--Town Supervisor

Members of Oneida Executive Committee--Julius Danforth, Chairman; Irene Moore, Vice-chairman; Althea Schuyler, Treasure, Eva Danforth, Secretary, Sabie Danforth, Credit Committee.

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The question of maintaining and graveling town roads adjoining Indian lands in the area was again brought up. Mr. Hill stated that the roads in question had not been brought to his attention and there certainly had been no discrimination.

Mr. Skogstad from the Dept. of Industrial Development was present to explain the program set up by the Federal government whereby the federal government finances on-the-job training for any industry that locates on or near Indian reservations. He stated that he had received a letter from congressman Byrnes stating that the Women League of Voters from Appleton had written him expressing much disappointment to note that Oneida was not mentioned as a possible site for Industrial Development. He reported that he had contacted some industrial leaders in near-by areas and found they were interested in the program as a possibility of on-the-job training for Indians but he himself felt that the reservation itself lacked many necessary facilities for industry.

Tribal Copy

Name of Tribe--Oneida Indians Inc.
Minutes of meeting held by--General Council--Eva Danforth
Date of Meeting --March 4, 1960
Place of Meeting--Oneida Methodist Hall
Regular or Special--Special
Was a quorum present--yes
Name and Title of Council members present--Julius Danforth-Ch. Irene Moore-
Vice-chairman, Althea Schuyler-Treasure, Eva Danforth.
Visiting Officials -none

M I N U T E S

Meeting was called to order by the Chairman Julius Danforth at 8 p. m.
Chairman then called on Leslie Danforth to count number of people present.
Number reported present at opening of meeting (57)
Letter was read by Althea Schuyler from the office of the Tribal Lawyers
Aaron, Aaron, Schimberg and Hess proposing that the Tribe adopt a res-
olution requesting the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to take necessary
action to extend the contract between the Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin and
the said law firm for an additional period of five years, for the hand-
ling of tribal claims against the United States.
Motion by Leslie Danforth to Accept the resolution as read.
Seconded by Vanoy Thomas. Carried.
Chairman called on Althea Schuyler to read a report on a special meeting
between the town board of Oneida and the Oneida Executive Committee.
Mrs. Irene Moore reported she had called Mr. Kiley about the present
meeting and explained that he could not be there as the meeting was
called on very short notice.
The secretary was requested to send a copy of the minutes, along with a
copy of the adopted resolution to Mr. Kiley immediately, so he could in
turn take necessary action to report to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.
A discussion was held concerning the tribal buildings at the C.C.C. Camp.
A motion was made after much discussion to authorize the Executive Committee
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Seconded by Dennison Hill, Carried.
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volunteered to donate labor.
A general discussion was held concerning the financial status of the tribe
in regards to Rehabilitation and tribal funds. It was recommended that the
Executive Committee enforce the Constitution and By-laws.
Mrs. Vivian Dakota reported to the Tribe the progress of the newly organi-
zed health and welfare committee and made a special appeal to everyone to
exercise their voting in school and town elections.
Motion by Dennison Hill to adjourn, seconded by Vivian Dakota. Carried.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

MAY 5 1960

Miss Eva Danforth
Tribal Secretary
Oneida Executive Committee
Route 2
West DePere, Wisconsin

Dear Miss Danforth:

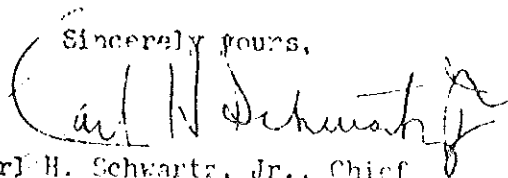
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Sincerely yours,



Carl H. Schwartz, Jr., Chief
Resources and Civil Works Division



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Great Lakes Agency
Ashland, Wisconsin

July 29, 1960

Eva Danforth, Secretary
Oneida Executive Committee
Route 2
West DePere, Wisconsin

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I am sorry I cannot attend as I have a previous commitment. However, Mr. Marshall Hall, Field Representative, will be in that area and will be present at your meeting.

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Sincerely yours,

E. J. Riley
Superintendent

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M. J. Hall, Field Repr.