

Course still uncharted in Oneida land dispute

BY DON CASTONIA
Post-Crescent staff writer

GREEN BAY — It probably will be at least three months before joint Brown-Outagamie County Commission makes a decision on the direction it will take in dealing with the issue of Oneida Indian territorial claims.

The commission, made up of representatives from the two county governments, met in closed session with its attorneys for nearly 1½ hours Monday to hear what they termed a progress report on the law firms' research into potential legal aspects of the claim.

Brown County Corp. Counsel Kenneth Bukowski, serving as commission spokesman, said no decisions would be made until a final report was filed by the two legal firms and that this would not happen within 30 days, but possibly within 90 days.

At the same time, Bukowski made a point of stressing that the commission would first seek to negotiate with the Oneidas before going to litigation.

In an apparent attempt to defuse feelings that the commission was only looking at legal action, Bukowski read the intergovernmental agreement approved by the two counties, saying "the word 'negotiations' is part and parcel of the of the agreement."

He said negotiations with the tribe have not been ruled out and the commission will seek to negotiate, but not until after the final report has been submitted by the two law firms.

However, Tribal leaders in the past have said they will negotiate only with the individual governmental bodies and not with the joint commission.

The Oneidas are claiming jurisdiction over all of the original 65,438-acre reservation, rather than just the 2,500 acres to which the tribe still holds title. If the Oneida claims would be upheld, portions of the Town of Oneida in Outagamie County and portions of Green Bay's west side and the Brown County Airport would revert to tribal control.

Bukowski said "the question of ju-

Kaukauna man's death accidental

KAUKAUNA — Daniel J. Micke, 19, route 3, died of accidental asphyxiation in the garage at his residence Monday morning, according to Brown County Coroner Tim Blaney.

The Post-Crescent incorrectly reported Tuesday that Micke took his own life. The story was based on incorrect information supplied by other than Blaney's office. The Post-Crescent regrets the error.

Blaney, who investigated with Brown County police, said that Micke was repairing his car in his closed ga-

risdiction must be answered." He added that the joint commission resulted because it was felt it would be "the least time consuming for the two counties to pool their resources."

Outagamie County has put up \$40,000 and Brown put up \$60,000 for legal fees. The joint commission has hired two law firms, Hale & Doerr of Boston, and Tobin Law Offices of Winner, S. D.

Bukowski said the two law firms have also reached "a meeting of the minds" as to how best represent the commission and as to what role each will play.

Both Outagamie County Executive John Schreiter and County Board Chairman George Schroeder felt progress had been made in the closed meeting, if only from the standpoint of familiarizing the members with the legal ramifications of territorial claims.

Both law firms have been involved in court suits involving territorial claims by Indian tribes in other states.

Bukowski said the commission probably would not meet again until the law firms were ready to submit their final recommendations.

County considers site for fifth Circuit Court

Several alternatives are being explored to provide facilities for the anticipated fifth Circuit Court, including not providing separate courtroom facilities.

County Planner Robert Stadel told the Property, Building and Recreation Committee Tuesday that state law requires a judge be provided with chambers but does not require he have his own courtroom.

At the same time, however, Stadel said they are looking at returning the court commissioner to the office-type setting it formerly occupied and giving the new judge the court commissioner's courtroom.

Other options being looked at, Stadel said, include having the new

court operate as a night court in an existing courtroom, using space that could be made available if various agriculture-related services are consolidated outside the courthouse, or use the County Board room which is already set up as a courtroom.

Strong opposition has already been voiced against the latter option by some County Board members, but Supv. John Pfefferle, Property Committee chairman, agreed it should be explored because of the relatively little use it actually gets by the County Board.

He asked the Legislative Services office, through which use of the room is scheduled, to compile a history on

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Convicted murderer gets \$25 in voting rights suit

MILWAUKEE — A Grand Chute man convicted of the July 1982 murder of an Appleton woman has been awarded \$25 by a federal judge instead of the \$1 million he was seeking in a lawsuit which claimed he was denied the right to vote while being held in the Outagamie County jail.

U.S. District Court Judge Terence T. Evans awarded the \$25 to Neal A. Johnson, 29, formerly of 1112 Westland Dr., Appleton, saying the request for \$1 million in damages "is a little too steep."

Johnson, who was charged with first-degree murder in the death of Ann Peterson, 25, 2012 N. Meade St., was found guilty of second-degree murder last April by a Columbia County jury. Johnson shot Peterson twice at close range with a shotgun while

lawsuit which was filed in November. He said he made the award "without intending to depreciate the deprivation of rights alleged here."

Generally, inmates must request an absentee ballot, Evans stated.

Drootsan said today that he had been given 20 days to respond to the lawsuit but missed the deadline because court papers were misplaced.

Drootsan said Johnson made his request the day of the election in November of 1982 while being held in the jail.

Due to the potential risks involved the request was not fulfilled, Drootsan said. He referred to threats on Johnson's life received by members of his family and reports that Johnson was suicidal as being factors in

Photo by Bob Baefen

Stone walk from school

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