



news

CONTACT:

Terri Hill
Director of Communications
218-780-4388
thill@boisforte-nsn.gov

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BOIS FORTE BAND'S CENSURE OF DRIFT AN EFFORT TO PROTECT BAND MEMBERS AND ASSETS

TOWER, Minn. – The Bois Forte Band today reiterated that its censure of Tribal Council Representative Mark Drift, Sr. and invocation of a process to remove him from office are efforts to protect the Band, its assets, and its members.

A two-month investigation determined that Drift improperly used a tribal government credit card on 16 occasions for personal reasons, despite specific instructions from the Band's auditor and attorney that tribal council members should not incur any unauthorized expenses. The cash advances Drift obtained occurred hundreds of miles away from the Bois Forte Reservation and the Band members he represents.

Drift did not begin paying back the funds until the Band's internal procedures detected the expenditures and an investigation had begun. Drift still owes the Band nearly \$1,000, which he has been ordered to repay by Monday.

"Representative Drift's admission substantiates the basis for the Tribal Council's censure," said Terri Hill, the Band's director of communications. "Our tribal government has a duty to safeguard Bois Forte property and funds and to investigate any potential violations of its fiscal policies. This is the one and only issue the Band's actions are intended to address."

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