

For Immediate Release

Voluntary Buy-Out Offer to Reduce Workforce a Success

Mt. Pleasant – On Nov. 5, the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Council approved a motion to allow Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort (SECR) Administration to coordinate a voluntary buy-out offer for associates to reduce their workforce by 4.2 percent.

“The associates were supportive of the effort and appreciated the generous buy out package Tribal Council brought forward,” Tribal Chief Fred Cantu, Jr. informs. “The workforce reduction included all levels of the organization, including management.”

Tribal Council and senior management of SECR mentioned although there were 132 voluntary buy-outs granted, regrettably, other employees wishing to embrace the package were turned down.

“The quality and service of the Soaring Eagle as a world class entertainment destination needs to be maintained, especially with the holiday tourist season upon us,” SECR CEO Andy Asselin stated. “We need to continue the four-diamond service our patron expect and I believe Council and SECR Administration have supported a plan that allows a smooth transition for all involved.”

With the 132 full-time associates taking the voluntary buy-out, the economic engine that drives the Tribe avoided problematic involuntary layoffs. SECR Human Resource Director Greg Falsetta appreciated how Council phased the buy-outs so key personnel can continue to work through the holidays.

“It shows the Council is vested in its associates and cares for the quality of operations our patrons enjoy,” Falsetta explains. “Although the organization was not able to accept all requests submitted, we value our associates hard work and dedication to Soaring Eagle and the Tribe.”

The Tribe is continuing to hire for full and part-time positions as employment opportunities in key areas present themselves. It was clear in the joint meeting of Council and SECR Administration that the economy and increased competition drove the efforts toward the successful associate buy-outs.

“Market-driven forces are forcing all businesses in Michigan to evaluate how they are utilizing their resources,” Tribal Spokesman Joe Sowmick stated. “We can hope and pray the tourism market will rebound and we can continue to offer much-needed employment for Michigan workers.”

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