



**10/14/15**

## **Update on Proposed Shooting Star Casino location in Star Lake Township**

In our letter of 9/24/15 regarding the proposed plans of the White Earth Nation (WEN) for a new Shooting Star Casino to be built in Star Lake Township we committed to provide factual updates as new information becomes available.

Since that time, the WEN published a press release on 9/25 regarding their preliminary plans. The WEN invited Otter Tail County (OTC) officials to Mahnomon to discuss their plans in more detail on 10/5. Specific details of those events have been posted on the township website, as well as copies of the Gambling Compact between the State of MN and the Tribe (dtd Nov. 1991), and a Question & Answer sheet regarding Indian Gaming obtained from the WEN website.

A 10/12 review of the OTC website listing recent property sales confirms that an additional 10 acre farm site off County Hwy. 41 has been acquired by the Central Minnesota Land Company for a sale price of \$360,000. This acquisition plus those previous, provides a total of approximately 255 acres with Star Lake access on both the south and north sides of the property. While rumors persist that additional property may be involved, this is what has been officially confirmed as of this date.

Along this line, many residents have called wondering if the recently placed barricades on the abandoned residential property immediately to the east of the Town Hall, is somehow related to the casino issue. It is not – see separate Board posting on this for further information.

A review of the materials and the opinion of the OTC Commission & Staff makes it clear the casino project is going to happen. We have verified that Star Lake Township has no statutory role or authority in this matter.

The Township Board will continue to publish factual updates to keep residents informed. At the appropriate time the Board will reach out to WEN to establish a cooperative and productive relationship.

Respectfully,

Star Lake Township Board