

Town of Wawarsing Supervisor Dr. Richard Craft emphatically stated that the Town Board has made no decision regarding the proposed Modoc casino. This was directed to dispel rumors of such a decision. The supervisor stated that we must “protect ourselves in every way, shape and form.” The supervisor stated his concern that the town, village, school district, fire companies, and emergency services receive enough financial support to provide for the additional services that would be needed. Dr. Craft promised to keep residents informed of any further developments in the casino issue.

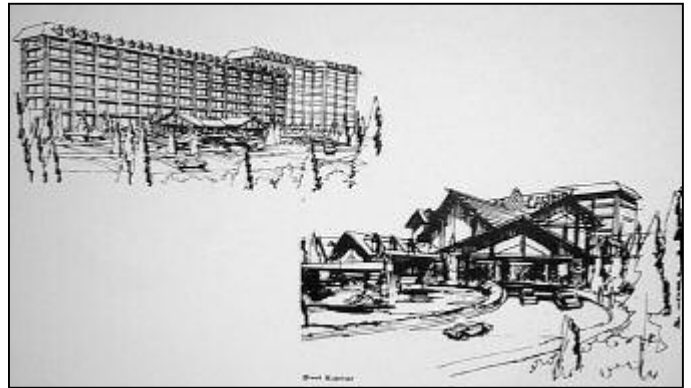


Mr. David Lenefsky, representative for the Modoc Indian Nation, and project planner Mr. Daniel Schuster, were the last panel members to speak.

Mr. Lenefsky explained that the Modocs have signed an agreement to pay Ulster County 15 million dollars a year if they open a casino in the county. Other parts of the agreement, such as improvements to roadways affected by traffic associated with the casino, would also be the responsibility of the Modocs. Mr. Lenefsky explained that the Modocs were negotiating to align themselves with a New York Indian tribe. If such a deal could be brokered, the Modocs would then apply to the Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs for approval for a casino in the Town of Wawarsing. This step of the process could take 8 to 10 months. After that approval, the Modocs and their partnered New York Indian Tribe would then request approval from New York State to build a casino in the Town of



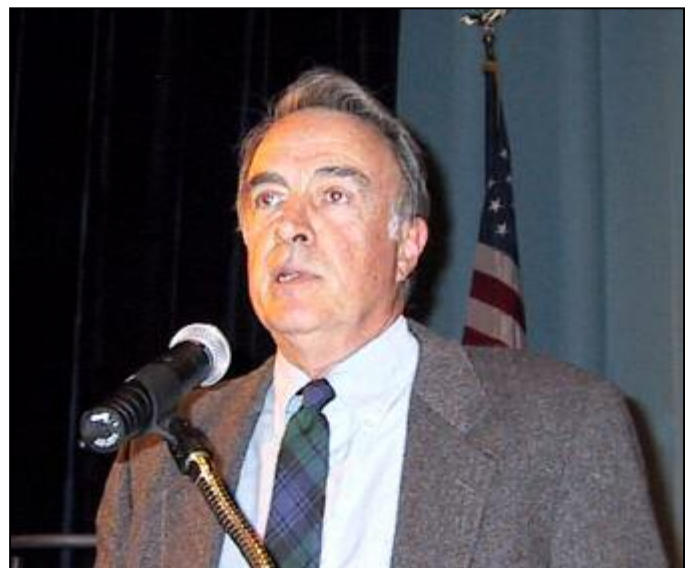
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Wawarsing. This part of the process is anticipated to take 2-3 months. If this step were approved, then the final step would involve the Town of Wawarsing.

Mr. Lenefsky described the drawings of the proposed 950,000 square foot Modoc casino. The site is south of the Village of Ellenville at what is commonly known as the **Kelly Farm**. Restaurants, 26,000 square feet of retail space, a spa, 2 nightclubs, gaming/gambling facilities, of course, parking garages, and a 650-room world class hotel would comprise the complex. The facility would employ 3,000 people with average salaries of \$27,000. Anticipated are \$18 million in benefits and \$28 million in payroll taxes. Mr. Lenefsky stated that they would go out of their way to be good neighbors, and that a business like this could not be run in a hostile environment.

Mr. Schuster presented an overview of the traffic and environmental impact studies. It is estimated that 80 percent of the casino traffic would come from the south via Rte. 17 and the remaining 20 percent traveling from the north down **Rte. 209**. The study expects an increase of 7 to 13 percent in traffic north of the **Kelly Farm on Rte. 209**. The study reported that the present **Rte. 209** could accommodate the additional traffic. The study called for a turning lane to be constructed at the entrance of the casino and widening of intersections in Wurtsboro.



Mr. Schuster presented a brief explanation of the environmental impact study. Of interest was the issue of water and sewage. The plan called for the Modocs to provide their own resources for these necessities or to pay to “hook onto” the village’s services. Mayor Kaplan later stated the village has the capacity to accommodate this. If so, the casino would also pay for these services. ➔