



Council Minutes
Tuesday, April 7, 2020: On Line Conferencing : 9:00 am

Present:	Chief	Scott McLeod
	Deputy-Chief	Muriel Sawyer
	Councillors	Brian Couchie
		Jane Commanda
		June Commanda
		Michael Sawyer
		Rick Stevens
	Chief Executive Officer	Dwayne Nashkawa
	Dir of Admin/Recorder	Freda Martel
	Health Director	Kimberly Lalonde
Culture & Heritage Mgr	Glenna Beaucage	
Regrets:	Councillor	Corey Goulais

1. Meeting commenced at 9:13 am with Deputy-Chief offering the Opening Miigwechiwin.
2. COVID-19 Update:

Kimberly Lalonde presented an update to Council informing them that there are 7 cases of COVID in the North Bay Parry Sound Public District Health Unit of which, 4 are resolved, 2 are in hospital. There has been no deaths from COVID thus far, which indicates that the Public Health measures that are being taken is keeping COVID controlled in this area. She reviewed the Key Public Health Measures document with Council that shows a timeline and future outlook of this virus. According to this, the virus will peak around April 18-21, 2020.

She provided Council with an update on the Food Security Program that is being implemented by health and social services staff for NFN members. This is being set up this week and will operate out of the NFN gym. A wellness check in program is being implemented as well, to check in with vulnerable people in the community and those who reside alone. Medical and general transportation services are still being provided, as well as Home and Community Care services. With Easter Weekend coming, it will be very important to get messaging out regarding social distancing and minimizing family gatherings.

Deputy-Chief Muriel Sawyer suggested that Chief McLeod and Kimberly Lalonde, prepare joint message about the importance of not have gatherings during this Easter weekend. Chief McLeod and Kim Lalonde will work with Genevieve Couchie on this.

In regards to Business closures, Council was informed that businesses are in full compliance. Chief McLeod informed Council that one business is requesting to close operations later in the day on Tuesday rather than at 4 pm due to the number of customers expected. Council was not in agreement to extend the agreed upon time. Council was informed that APS will be monitoring these closures. Also, Mike Harney, Economic Development Manager will be the point person for business owners and Tom Lambert, Employment & Training Manager, is working at the office two days per week to provide by phone services to individuals who have questions or require assistance accessing Employment Insurance and government assistance for businesses. Councillor Stevens informed Council that he was contacted by a band member who inquired about accessing convenience items, as this is something that they have done daily. Council was informed that the community transportation shuttle operates 3 days per week which they could access to purchases as an alternative and interim solution if they wish.

3. Disclosures of Conflict:

None.

4. Adoption of Council Minutes of March 3, 2020:

Moved by Muriel Sawyer

Seconded by Brian Couchie to approve the Council Minutes of March 30, 2020 as presented.

Carried.

5. Delegations/Presentations:

(a) Committee Honourarium

Councillor Rick Stevens inquired as to whether consideration can be made to pay committee honourariums to committee members. Council was not in agreement to pay out committee honourariums as the purpose of this payment is for members attending meetings, and no meetings are taking place at this time.

6. Reports:

(a) Debendaagziwaad Naaknigewin Minutes of February 13, 2020

Moved by Brian Couchie

Seconded by Jane Commanda to approve the Debendaagziwaad Naaknigewin Minutes of February 13, 2020 as presented.

Carried.

(b) Culture & Pow Wow Committee Minutes of January 27, 2020

Item #8 – A concern was expressed regarding projects being created by individual members and then being passed on to NFN to continue running, as these require both staff time and finances. Referred back to the Culture & Pow Wow Committee for additional information.

Moved by Rick Stevens

Seconded by Brian Couchie to approve the Culture & Pow Wow Committee Minutes of January 27, 2020 as presented with the exception of the recommendation under Item #8.

Carried.

(c) Special Council Minutes of March 31, 2020

- Item #2 – Pg 2 – 1st paragraph – Change “Insecurity Plan” to read “Security Plan”
- Item #7(d) change “due to the later closure this season” to read “due to late ice out last year”

Moved by Brian Couchie

Seconded by Jane Commanda to approve the Special Council Minutes of March 31, 2020 as amended.

Carried.

(d) Special Council Minutes of April 5, 2020

Moved by Muriel Sawyer

Seconded by Rick Stevens to approve the Special Council Minutes of April 5th, 2020 as presented.

Carried.

7. Unfinished Business From Last Meeting:

(a) Cannabis Law

Council was provided with a copy of a draft resolution to approve an enactment process in times of health or emergency situations; where processes cannot be completed under normal circumstances. Before the work from home provision due to COVID-19, the Cannabis Law was in the process of being amended. Two community meetings were held and a survey was conducted proposing the following amendments:

- (1) staffing age to changed from 21 years of age to 18 years of age.
- (2) Age to purchase cannabis changed from 21 years for age to 19 years of age which is in line with Ontario's regulation.
- (3) Sale of edibles permitted

Fred Bellefeuille provided wording for a BCR to amend the enactment process under health and emergency circumstances which would provide Council with authority to create or enact a policy or law. The amendment would be added to the existing Land Law Enactment Process with 4.12 reading as follows:

"Council may create or enact a policy, guideline, regulation or land law without the preliminary steps in section 4.4 and 4.5 ordinarily required, if Council is of the opinion there is a public health or safety emergency in regards to land or Membership."

Moved by Rick Stevens

Seconded by Michael Harney to approve Council Resolution #1905 to approve the amendments to the Cannabis Law and the Nipissing First Nation Voting and Enactment Law.

Carried.

(b) Heritage Project

As a follow up from presentation in February with Joan McLeod and representatives from Nipissing University, Glenna informed Council that they are seeking approval to have heritage information stored under a licence at Nipissing University. There would be no cost to for the licence to NFN as funds were made available through a grant. If Council is in agreement with this, a list of individuals who can access this information will need to be developed. Dwayne informed Council that Cameron Welch, Director of Lands and Resources, had some input into this project. Glenna will contact Cameron to discuss further. This item will be deferred to the next Council meeting.

8. New Business:

(a) Hunting Policy

Moved by Brian Couchie
Seconded by Muriel Sawyer to approve the Hunting Policy as amended.
Carried.

(b) Chief & Council Travel Authorization Policy

Moved by Muriel Sawyer
Seconded by Jane Commanda to approve the Chief & Council Travel Authorization Policy as amended.
Carried.

(c) Food Bank Policy

Change "provides food for a few days." to read "based on family needs."

Moved by Brian Couchie
Seconded by Muriel Sawyer to approve the Food Bank Policy as amended.
Carried.

(d) Fisheries Management Actions

Council was provided with a briefing note with proposed COVID-19 Fisheries Management Actions for Council's consideration with regards to the moratorium, subsistence fishing during open season and commercial fishing. Council was informed that routine patrolling will take place and any actions will depend on the spawn. Councillor Couchie suggested that possibly part of the outcomes could include a program to provide fish to seniors. Dwayne will speak to Jeff McLeod and Cameron Welch to see how this can be added into the proposed actions.

Councillor Muriel Sawyer inquired about the plan for smelt fishing to address problems with non-members accessing smelt fishing areas and safe distancing. It was suggested that signage could be erected in this area and Dwayne will inform APS as well.

In regards to commercial fishing, a concern was expressed as to how the exchange of fish would take place. The Fisheries Management Actions will be referred back to Jeff and Cameron and be brought back to Council.

(e) Cigarette Quota Distribution

Renee Commanda, Finance Officer submitted the Cigarette Quota Allocation for 2020-2021 based on-reserve stores that qualify, along with cigarette price lists. Two new stores would be added to the allocation list. Discussion took place regarding the surcharge of .10 cents per package. Confirmation is needed on one of the new stores and surcharge. This item was deferred to the next Council meeting.

(c) HVAC Unit – NFN Admin Building

Bruce McLeod, Special Projects Manager provided a briefing note regarding tenders received for the replacement of the heating ventilation and air conditioning unit for the Administration Building.

Discussion took place regarding this units ability to filter air more effectively as there were times when smoke from area residences was being drawn into the building. The contractor will be made aware of these instances, and perhaps may be able to reposition air intake areas.

Moved by Muriel Sawyer

Seconded by Brian Couhie to award the contract to Bernard Rochefort Limited at a cost of \$253,000.00 to replace the HVAC unit for the NFN Administration building.
Carried.

This project will commence once it is safe to do so, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the meantime, it was suggested that units can be purchased.

(d) Beach Closures

Dwayne informed Council that in an attempt to eliminate gathering places and keep people home, it was suggested that beaches be closed for 1 month at which time it will be re-assessed.

Moved by Brian Couhie

Seconded by Muriel Sawyer to close all beaches at NFN until further notice.
Carried.

(e) Cancellation / Postponement – Upcoming Events

Discussion took place regarding upcoming events and whether plans to continue with these events should take place. The Volunteer Appreciation Day is scheduled in April, which is Volunteer Appreciation month. In regards to this event, a notice will be sent out from the Chief thanking volunteers and advising of its cancellation.

In regards to other events such as Indigenous Day, Golf Tournament and Pow Wow, these events will be re-assessed by the end of May. At this time, all events scheduled for April and May 2020 will be cancelled or postponed.

9. Adjournment:

Moved by Muriel Sawyer

Seconded by Brian Couhie to adjourn this meeting.
Carried.

** Meeting adjourned at 11:28 am **

** The next regular Council meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 9:00 am **