



Council Minutes

Tuesday, April 21, 2020: On Line Conferencing: 9:00 am

Present:	Chief	Scott McLeod
	Deputy-Chief	Muriel Sawyer
	Councillors	Brian Couchie
		Corey Goulais
		Jane Commanda
		June Commanda
		Michael Sawyer
		Rick Stevens
	Chief Executive Officer	Dwayne Nashkawa
	Dir of Admin/Recorder	Freda Martel
	Dir of Lands & NR	Cameron Welch
	Health Director	Kimberly Lalonde

1. Meeting commenced at 9:12 am with Councillor Jane Commanda offering the Opening miigwechiwin.

2. Adoption of Agenda:

Moved by Brian Couchie

Seconded by Jane Commanda to approve the Council Agenda of April 21st, 2020 as presented.

Carried.

3. COVID-19 Update:

Kimberly Lalonde, Health Services Manager provided a brief update on the Covid-19 statistics for the district, being 16 cases of which 10 are resolved and 2 are in hospital. The critical dates are April 21st and 22nd. She informed Council that overall, things are looking positive if the measures in place are continued. Deputy-Chief Muriel Sawyer inquired as to whether more testing was being done. Council was informed that expanded testing is in place with additional days and an expanded list of people tested to include Home Care Workers and the Indigenous population.

4. On Reserve Businesses Re-Opening:

Kimberly provided Council with an overview of what has taken place to assist on-reserve businesses with re-opening. She informed Council that a checklist of 39 items was given to each business who wished to open, and she, Michael Harney, Economic Development Manager and Carole Lafantasie, Community Health Nurse conducted an on-site audit with each business. She informed Council that these visits went well and over all she was impressed with the measures that store owners had put in place to ensure the safety of their staff and customers. Signage was provided, plexiglass and directional arrows are being implemented. Council was informed that not all business will re-open, some have opted to do deliveries or curb site services. In smaller stores where distancing cannot be done, the workers will be wearing masks and/or limit the number of customers in the store at one time. Councillor Rick Stevens inquired as to whether traffic would be controlled. Council was informed that matter would be directed to Patrick Stevens, Director of Community Infrastructure to see if speed bumps could be installed as well as to the Anishinabek Police Services for patrols. Council was informed that businesses that are approved to re-open, will be published and an Approval Notice will be visible at the entrance of the store along with a number to call to report any infractions.

Council agreed to have Dwayne Nashkawa and Kimberly Lalonde review and approve applications that meet the criteria to re-open and inform Council of these approvals.

5. Delegations / Presentations:

(a) Food Security Program

Councillor Jane Commanda requested that applications for the Food Security Program that are received after the deadline time be considered. Kimberly informed Council that last week 153 requests were received and two buses were brought in to deliver the food. She informed Council that food was delivered up to 9:30 pm. Staff from different departments in the organization are assisting. Council agreed that due to the amount of work involved and for coordinating purposes the deadline time would remain. Discussion took place about removing NFN employees from the eligibility list. Council was informed that at employees are considered last priority and part of the program is to have people stay home, and when the program was presented, it was agreed that individual finances would not be criteria to qualify for this program. It was also suggested that in the advertisement of the program, it individuals should be asked to order only what they need.

It was agreed not to coordinate an out of town Food Security Program at this time.

6. Disclosures of Conflict:

None.

7. Council Travel:

None.

8. Adoption of Council Minutes of April 7, 2020:

Moved by Brian Couchie

Seconded by June Commanda to approve the Council Minutes of April 7, 2020 as presented.

Carried.

9. Unfinished Business From Last Meeting:

(a) Cigarette Quota Distribution

Moved by Corey Goulais

Seconded by Jane Commanda to approve the Cigarette Quota Distribution for 2020-2021 as presented.

Carried.

(b) Fisheries Management Actions

As a follow up from the last Council meeting, Cameron Welch, Director of Lands and Natural Resources provided additional updates on fisheries management actions. Council was informed that Jeff McLeod, Natural Resource Manager has been in contact with the Health Centre regarding safety measures due to COVID-19 and to discuss safety plans in preparation of possible fishing activity plans. Council was also informed that in discussions with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) the sports fishing season will be open on the usual date however public boats launches will remain closed. In regards to spearing, Council agreed to remain status quo and not permit spear fishing this year due to COVID-19 and for the health and safety of members as well as the health of the Lake Nipissing.

Moved by Corey Goulais

Seconded by Brian Couchie to remain status quo and not permit spear fishing for this season.

Carried.

Councillor Rick Stevens suggested that for safety reasons commercial fishers should have a partner that they fish with at all times, and that they be required to submit a COVID-19 safety plan and receive training. Cameron informed Council that this could be done as part of the Provincial Liaison Training (PLT) visit conducted by the fisheries staff. During the pandemic, it was also suggested that no one should be allowed to come on-reserve to purchase fish. In regards commercial fishing season date for opening and a food security program that will provide fish for seniors, these will be deferred to a later meeting for further discussion. Councillor Michael Sawyer informed Council that health and safety key messaging is very important, whereas the decisions made are not against our inherent right, but rather based on health and safety.

(c) Smelt Fishing

Cameron informed Council that the Enforcement Officers are patrolling McGinnis Creek where smelt fishing takes place. At this time, the smelt have not started flowing, but signs have been erected in the area. He was also informed by the MNRF that non-First Nation members would not be permitted to net smelt in that area as they have to be 100 yards into the creek and that creek would not be wide large enough to meet that regulation. There are other creeks in the area where smelt fishing could take place.

(d) Research / Heritage Project

As a follow up the presentation to Council regarding an agreement with Nipissing University for a heritage project, Cameron provided Council with a discussion paper and a draft Research Policy for Council's consideration. The Research Policy outlines a process on how to deal with requests for research. He presented 4 basic principles that must be addressed by any researcher who intends to conduct research involving Nipissing related subject matters, directly or indirectly, being ethics, accountability, participatory approach and OCAP (ownership, control, access and possession). He reviewed with Council a Research Review Process for their consideration that outlines how research requests can be handled, where a Research Committee conducts a review, seeks additional information as needed and makes a recommendation to Council who would approve or disapprove.

Deputy-Chief Muriel Sawyer inquired as to the existing research protocol in place. Council was informed that these requests were largely handled informally. In regards to the agreement with Nipissing University which was provided, Nipissing First Nation is listed as a co-owner. Full ownership of research is important. In a co-ownership agreement, the researchers could take this information and use on their own.

Councillor Jane Commanda informed Council that a book is being written at this time, a project by NFN under the Culture Department and Nipissing University; she inquired as to who gets the benefit from that when published. Council was informed that this is an existing project and once a policy is adopted, NFN can say what happens retroactively and what will happen going forward.

Moved by Brian Couchie
Seconded by Jane Commanda to approve the Research Policy as presented.
Carried.

Deputy-Chief Muriel Sawyer informed Council that she will forward this policy to the Education Committee for further review.

10. Reports:

(a) Special Council Minutes of April 14, 2020

Moved by Rick Stevens
Seconded by Michael Sawyer to approve the Special Council Minutes of April 14, 2020 as presented.
Carried.

(b) Special Council Minutes of April 16, 2020

Moved by Muriel Sawyer
Seconded by June Commanda to approve the Special Council Minutes of April 16, 2020 as presented.
Carried.

(c) Special Council Minutes of April 17, 2020

- Moved by June Commanda
Seconded by Michael Sawyer to approve the Special Council Minutes of April 17, 2020 as presented.
Carried.

11. New Business:

(a) Human Resource Management Policy

Moved by Corey Goulais
Seconded by Brian Couchie to approve the Human Resource Management Policy as amended.
Carried.

(b) Business Licencing Approval

Moved by Jane Commanda
Seconded by Brian Couchie to approve a Business License for Charles Avery for Cheerful Charlie's Cannabis Company located at 16 Osprey Miikan in the Bineshii Business Park.
Carried.

12. Standing Items:

- (a) Annuities Claim – no additional information at this time.
- (b) Cannabis – no additional information at this time.
- (c) Business Closures – no additional information at this time.

13. Additional Compensation / Hazard Pay:

Deputy-Chief Muriel Sawyer inquired as to whether staff were provided with or made aware of the hazard pay due to COVID-19. Dwayne informed Council that these inquiries should be directed to him and he will discuss with the Manager.

14. Adjournment:

Moved by Muriel Sawyer

Seconded by Jane Commanda to adjourn this meeting.

Carried.

** Meeting adjourned at 11:46 am **

** The next regular Council meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, May 5th, 2020 at 9:00 am **