



Council Minutes

Tuesday, May 5, 2020: On-Line Conferencing : 9:00 am

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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

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1. Meeting commenced at 9:23 am.

2. Adjournment to the Committee of the Whole:

Moved by Muriel Sawyer

Seconded by Brian Couchie to adjourn to the committee of the whole.

Carried.

\*\* Meeting adjourned to the committee of the whole at 9:23 am \*\*

3. Committee of the Whole:

(a) Customary Care Placement

Moved by Muriel Sawyer

Seconded by Rick Stevens to approve Council Resolution #1906 to approve a Child Welfare customary care arrangement.

Carried.

4. Adjournment from the Committee of the Whole:

Moved by Jane Commanda

Seconded by Rick Stevens to adjourn from the committee of the whole.

Carried.

\*\* Meeting adjourned from the committee of the whole at 9:27 am \*\*

5. COVID-19 Update:

Dwayne Nashkawa provided an update on COVID-19 informing Council that there have been no major changes in the numbers, these remain at 16; 15 of which are resolved and 1 in hospital. He informed Council there is 1 "A" symptomatic case at Casselhome Nursing Home in North Bay.

6. Adoption of Agenda:

Moved by Brian Couchie

Seconded by Muriel Sawyer to approve the agenda as presented.

Carried.

7. Declaration of Conflict:

None.

8. Council Travel:

n/a

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

- Item # 14 - Change "pm" to read "am"

Moved by Jane Commanda

Seconded by Brian Couchie to approve the Council Minutes of April 7, 2020 as corrected.

Carried.

10. Delegations/Presentations:

(a) Duchesnay – 3-Way Stop

Chief Scott McLeod informed Council that he also received a request from a retailer and resident in Duchesnay requesting stop signs. This request, along with a suggestion that the stop signs that are located on the roadway at the daycare entrance be moved to the corner of Couchie Memorial Drive and Commanda Crescent. This will be forwarded to Patrick Stevens, Community Infrastructure Manager, to review and report back to Council with recommendations.

11. Unfinished Business From Last Meeting:

(a) Boat Launch

A Briefing Note was submitted by Jeff McLeod, Natural Resources Manager and Cameron Welch, Director of Lands and Natural Resources to address the public boat launches in Garden Village and Duchesnay. The briefing note addressed issues that could arise due to Ontario's closure of provincial parks and public boat launches, as this may result in non-community members trying to access the launches which may cause traffic and parking issues as well as increased health risks to COVID-19. It was suggested that a sign on the billboards advising that "all boat launches are closed to non-residents" and that relief workers could be hired to monitor the launches during the long weekend starting Thursday.

12. Reports:

(a) Chief's Report

- Fishing Matter** – Chief McLeod informed Council that a fishing issue had come about where nets were set. The matter has been dealt with in accordance with NFN Fisheries Law. Approximately 300-400 fish were seized, processed and handed over to the NFN Food Bank.
- Increased Community Disturbances/Occurrences** – Chief McLeod informed Council that he has been addressing messages regarding the spike of increased incidents and drug use activities in the community, mostly around Juniper Crescent and Gerald Crescent in Garden Village. He informed Council that he will be preparing another video message to address some of these issues. He also informed Council that a drug called purple H is also in the community, this has been confirmed. He will be working with Kim Lalonde, Health Services Manager to see what NFN can do to address. It was suggested that NFN rental policies be reviewed to see if there are regulations that might assist in addressing some of the issues that involve tenants in NFN apartments. It was also suggested that perhaps task force committee could

be coordinated with NFN, Municipality of West Nipissing and the City of North Bay to address the issues to seek solutions. Council was informed that the police and courts have limited resources due to COVID-19 activity, as well, the detox centers are no longer taking clients at this time. Dwayne Nashkawa will coordinate a meeting with Mayor Al McDonald and Mayor Joanne Savage.

- iii. **Fire Ban** – Chief McLeod informed Council that he will address the lifting of the fire ban further on in the agenda as he has been getting calls about this lifting the band and he feels it is important for both the mental and social health of the members especially during this isolation period.

(b) Executive Director's Report

- i. **Food Security Program** - Dwayne informed Council that there were approximately 180 families that were served by the Food Security Program last week. There has been a large uptake for this program and members are grateful.
- ii. **Cannabis** – Next week a meeting with the Province will take place to discuss the negotiation protocol schedule. Dwayne will schedule an on-line meeting along with Chief McLeod and Fred Bellefeuille, Lawyer and the Province representative.
- iii. **NFN/Miller** – Dwayne informed Council that NFN/Miller secured a contract for the replacement of the bridge on Mooze Miikan which is approximately a \$500,000.00 contract with the Department of National Defense. The company has also secured another contract for the clean-up of the niobium sites in Yellek and by the Anishinabek Nation offices. Sub-contractors will be hired to assist with these projects as needed. Council was also informed that a letter of interest has been submitted to the Ministry of Transportation for the highway work from Gormanville Road to Laronde Creek.

13. New Business:

(a) Council Resolutions/Agreement Signed:

- i. Council Resolution #LNS 2456

Moved by Muriel Sawyer

Seconded by Jane Commanda to approve resolution #LNS 2456 that the roadway off Cockburn Road by the former Gookmis' Wiigwan be named Giizhik Miikan.

Carried.

(b) Outdoor Fire Law

Moved by Brian Couchie

Seconded by Rick Stevens to proceed with the enactment process for the Nipissing First Nation Outdoor Fires Law No. LM-2020-02.

Carried.

Melvin McLeod, Emergency Services Manager to look into the issue of residents burning leaves and to see if a curbside program for bagged leaves could be put in place.

(c) Nbisiing Secondary School Graduation

Dwayne informed Council that there will not be an in-person Graduation Ceremony taking place at Nbisiing Secondary School this year due to COVID-19. Carole Coulliard, Principal along with Teachers are looking at other ways to celebrate this for the graduates and families. Once a plan is in place, Dwayne will share this with Council.

(d) Upcoming Events

Dwayne reviewed with Council a list of upcoming events where decisions will need to be made to cancel or re-schedule. Council was informed that the Diner's Luncheon will be on hold and perhaps for the time-being be replaced with a meals on wheels program. Cultural Activities will be held differently where possible, by offering on-line activities or programming. In regards to Bingo, he will be meeting with Michael Harney to discuss, but likely bingos won't happen for the rest of this year. In regards to National Indigenous Day and the Golf Tournament, the recommendation is to cancel these events for this year. Discussion took place regarding the Pow wow. Council agreed that this event should be cancelled for this year as well.

Moved by Corey Goulais

Seconded by Brian Couchie that Dwayne Nashkawa proceed with the cancellation of community events as above.

Carried.

(e) Business Continuity Plan Update

Dwayne provided a brief overview of the Business Continuity Plan that has been developed. He informed Council that this document is a changing document and very much depends on circumstances. He will provide a copy of this document by email for Council's information.

(f) Water Levels – Lake Nipissing First Nation

Councillor Rick Stevens requested that contact be made to the Ministry of Natural Resources to ask that they not raise the water levels anymore until the fish have finished hatching. If the water levels rise more, the concern is that the eggs will become dormant, as they will be deeper in the water and in colder temperatures. Dwayne informed Council that Melvin McLeod attends the watershed meetings on behalf of NFN and at the last report the water was at the maximum level, as it is in the summer, and they were concerned about the possible rain event that was supposed to take place. Chief McLeod will send a message regarding the later levels and the concern expressed.

(g) Fire Ban

Chief Scott McLeod informed Council that he has received messages from a few members requesting that the fire ban be lifted. He informed Council that for mental and social purposes he would like this considered. He informed Council that he discussed this with Melvin and it was agreed that the fire ban can be relaxed to allow small personal campfires. Council was in favour of relaxing the fire ban and allowing small campground fires only. It was also agreed that other stipulations should be following relating to COVID-19. Melvin will prepare the stipulations. Brush fires would not be permitted at this time. The Chief will follow up with Melvin and have him work with Genevieve Couchie, Communications Officer to get this message out to members.

Moved by Brian Couchie

Seconded by June Commanda to lift the fire ban for Nipissing First Nation to permit small contained fires only.

Carried.

**14. Standing Items:**

- (i) Annuities Claim – no update.
- (ii) Cannabis – Dwayne informed Council that Kana Leaf was requesting permission to allow patrons into the store, however, it was agreed that only curb side deliveries be continued at this time. This has been relayed to the owners.
- (iii) Business Closures – Businesses are now open. *(This is no longer a standing item.)*

**15. Adjournment:**

Moved by Jane Commanda

Seconded by Rick Stevens to adjourn this meeting.

Carried.

**\*\* Meeting adjourned at 11:09 am. \*\***

**\*\* The next Council meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 9:00 am \*\***