



Council Minutes

Tuesday, June 2, 2020: On-Line Conferencing: 9:00 am

Present:	Chief	Scott McLeod
	Deputy-Chief	Muriel Sawyer
	Councillors	Jane Commanda
		June Commanda
		Michael Sawyer
	Rick Stevens	
	Chief Executive Officer	Dwayne Nashkawa
	Dir of Admin / Recorder	Freda Martel
Regrets:	Councillors	Brian Couchie (personal)
		Corey Goulais

1. Meeting commenced at 9:22 am.

2. Adoption of Council Agenda of June 2, 2020:

Moved by Muriel Sawyer

Seconded by June Commanda to approve the Council Agenda of June 2, 2020.

Carried.

3. Disclosures of Conflict:

None.

4. Adjournment to the Committee of the Whole:

Moved by Muriel Sawyer

Seconded by June Commanda to adjourn to the committee of the whole.

Carried.

**** Meeting adjourned to the committee of the whole at 9:24 am ****

5. Committee of the Whole:

(a) Land Allotment – VLA

A briefing note was submitted to Council regarding a property in VLA. Cameron Welch, Director of Lands and Natural Resources will follow up with family members concerning this matter and report back to Council.

(b) Program Shutdown

A briefing note was submitted to Council regarding bingo operations. Due to COVID-19 bingos were cancelled. At this time, a recommendation was made to close the bingo indefinitely.

Moved by Jane Commanda

Seconded by Muriel Sawyer to close Nipissing First Nation bingo operations indefinitely.

Carried.

(c) I.T. Security

Council was provided with an update on steps taken to secure I.T. services at Nipissing First Nation following the ransom attack. These include increasing security, increasing I.T. governance measures through policy and setting up an I.T. Governance Committee, purchasing insurance and securing companies to deal with this matter by having regular penetration security checks going forward.

Moved by Michael Sawyer

Seconded by Jane Commanda to proceed with plans to upgrade I.T. systems and protect Nipissing First Nation information technology systems at a cost of \$275,182.74.

Carried.

6. Adjournment from the Committee of the Whole:

Moved by Muriel Sawyer

Seconded by Michael Sawyer to adjourn from the committee of the whole.

Carried.

**** Meeting adjourned from the committee of the whole at 10:16 am ****

7. Adoption of Council Minutes of May 5, 2020:

Moved by Muriel Sawyer

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

Carried.

Councillor Rick Stevens informed Council that having the 3-way stop in Duchesnay moved to Commanda Crescent as was suggested, it appears that there would be not be enough room from the bend off Couchie Memorial Drive to Commanda Crescent, to have a 3-way stop installed.

8. Delegations / Presentations:

(a) Mortgage Relief

Council was informed of a member inquired about mortgage relief. Council was informed that NFN does not have a program in place however mortgage payment arrangements could be discussed with Tammy Saulis, Chief Financial Officer and Shawn Anderson, Housing Manager. Tammy will be requested to follow up with the member.

(b) Meeting Request

A letter was submitted by a member requesting a meeting with Council. Council was informed that if the meeting was to deal with fishery compliance issues, the proponents involved would be eligible for a compliance meeting, however 3rd parties would not be involved.

9. Unfinished Business From Last Meeting:

(a) Duchesnay Road Update

A written update was provided to Council on issues concerning traffic and speeding in Duchesnay as well as measures put in place so far to address concerns, such as the installation of speed bumps and re-installation of the radar sign. Council was informed that Patrick Stevens, Director of Community Infrastructure and Terry Lariviere, Public Works Supervisor will be working on solutions to deal with traffic issues in Duchesnay and report back to Council with recommendations.

10. Reports:

(a) Chief's Report

Chief Scott McLeod informed Council that he has been attending a lot of meetings by phone and on-line. He provided an update on the meetings as follows:

- a. **Anishinabek Police Services (APS)** – Chief McLeod informed Council that he attended a meeting with APS Board and in regards to band by-laws. The APS is waiting for a legal opinion on APS jurisdiction in dealing with First Nation laws and looking at having infractions dealt with under the provincial court system.
- b. **Union of Ontario Indians – Anishinabek Nation** – Chief McLeod informed Council that he was notified by our Chief Executive Officer that the UOI will be continuing with office closures to August 31, 2020. He informed Council that he was not made aware of this ahead of time and he will be expressing his concern on this decision. Chief McLeod commended NFN staff that contributed to the continued operations during this time as well as those who assisted in coordinating the return to work processes.

Deputy-Chief Muriel Sawyer inquired as to whether the Union of Ontario Indians, Assembly of First Nation and/or Chiefs of Ontario offices are coming up with a response to pandemic should this occur again. Chief McLeod informed Council that he has been clear in his communications with these organizations about taking best practice notes, however, he will raise this issue again.

(b) Chief Executive Officer's Report

- a. **Re-opening of NFN** – Dwayne informed Council that staff are being returned to work with new processes and measures in place. Before returning to work staff receive PPE (Personal Protection Equipment) Training and office audits are conducted. Staff who have childcare issues, plans are being put in place; these plans are tailored to the individual. An inquiry was made as to whether impromptu visits are being made to businesses on reserve to ensure measures are being followed. Council was informed that they are not, but as complaints are received, visits are being made to the stores to address the issue(s).
- b. **Food Security** – Council was informed that the Food Security Program is winding down and is available for seniors 60 years and over. Any other members requiring food assistance, this will be available bi-weekly under the Food Bank program. Council was informed that the Food Security Program highest served number was 202 household during one of the weeks and the approximate cost of the program to date is \$385K. Funding available under COVID-19 release fund was used for this purpose.
- c. **Cannabis Update** – Dwayne informed Council that all the stores on reserve selling cannabis have passed the review by the Alcohol Gaming Commission of Ontario.
- d. **Negotiation Processes** – Dwayne informed Council that he had a phone call with Kim Muller, Assistant Deputy Minister to talk about the negotiation of the cannabis agreement. Discussion on adjudication processes and law development need to be addressed as well.

(c) Special Council Minutes of May 8, 2020

Moved by June Commanda

Seconded by Jane Commanda to approve the Special Council Minutes of May 8, 2020 as presented.

Carried.

11. New Business:

(a) NFN Budgets 2020-2021

Council was provided with copies of budgets for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Dwayne requested that Council approve these budgets on an interim basis and a full review will take place later on. He informed Council that due to COVID-19, budgets will change due to programming cancellations and changes.

Moved by Jane Commanda

Seconded by Muriel Sawyer to approve the 2020-2021 budget as interim budgets.

Carried.

(b) Cannabis Law & Enactment

Moved by Rick Stevens

Seconded by Michael Sawyer to approve the Cannabis Law and Enactment Process Amendments.

Carried.

(c) Beach Closures

Moved by Rick Stevens

Seconded by Jane Commanda to lift the closure for beaches on Nipissing First Nation with proper safety practices and measures in place.

Carried.

Dwayne provided Council with a view of the self-distancing signs that will be located at public areas in the community. In regards to the rink and playground areas, Council was informed that these are not being contemplated until measures are put in place. As well, the Chief informed Council that repairs are needed at the rink prior to opening.

12. Standing Items:

- (a) **Annuities Claim** – Chief McLeod provided an update to Council on the Annuities Claim. He attended a meeting to receive this update with the Robinson Huron Chiefs, Litigation Team, Chair Michael Restoule and legal firm of Naadgewan. A presentation was given from the first stage, being the Judges' ruling in favour and Ontario's appeal of this decision. Canada is not appealing, as they are in support of the decision as the Crown has an obligation in regards to resource revenue permits. The \$4.00 simple inflation index application was reviewed as a compensation model. Discussion of fiduciary responsibility was being discussed by Ontario and Canada. Council was informed that there are slightly different interpretations by all parties. The Robinson Huron Chiefs are in support of the \$4.00 indexing application. A decision was supposed to be made by June 30th, however, due to COVID-19 the Annuities Claim scheduled will be delayed at least by a year. The order to proceed with negotiation was in cue for cabinet. Another update is expected in July which he will share with Council if there are any changes.

(b) Cannabis Update

Update provided earlier on in meeting under Item 10 (b)(c).

13. Information Item:

Council was informed that Nipissing University has bestowed Joan McLeod with an Honourary Doctorate in History.

14. Adjournment:

Moved by Muriel Sawyer

Seconded by June Commanda to adjourn this meeting.

Carried.

** Meeting adjourned at 11:31 am **

** Next meeting is scheduled to take place on June 16th, 2020 at 9:00 am **