

**Council Minutes**  
**Tuesday, July 7, 2020: Teams Conferencing 9:00 am**

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Present:	Chief	Scott McLeod
	Deputy-Chief	Muriel Sawyer
	Councillors	Corey Goulais
		Jane Commanda
		June Commanda
		Michael Sawyer
	Rick Stevens	
	Chief Executive Officer	Dwayne Nashkawa
	Ex. Assistant/Recorder	Kim Salvaneschi
Regrets	Councillor	Brian Couchie (personal)

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**\*\*Adjournment to the Committee of the Whole at 9:23 am (Closed Session)**

*Moved by Muriel Sawyer*

*Seconded by Rick Stevens to adjourn to the Committee of the Whole*

*Carried*

**1. VLA Land Allotment**

\*Councillor Corey Goulais declared conflict and left the conferencing session.

An update briefing note was submitted to Council regarding a property in VLA, by Cameron Welch, Director of Lands and Natural Resources. Chief McLeod will meet with the family members to discuss the outcome of the Council discussions.

\*Councillor Corey Goulais returned to the conferencing session.

**\*\*Adjournment from the Committee of the Whole at 9:39 am (Regular Session)**

**1. OPENING MIIGWECHIWIN**

Muriel Sawyer provided the opening Miigwechiwin

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Add item # 6 (c) – Employee Status Report

Add item # 6 (d) – Emergency Response update

Move item # 8 (b) to # 8 (c) and item # 8 (c) to # 8 (d)

Add item # 8 (b) – Councillor Reports

*Moved by Rick Stevens*

*Seconded by Mike Sawyer to approve the Council Agenda of July 7, 2020 with changes.*

*Carried*

**3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICT**

None

**4. COUNCIL TRAVEL**

None

**5. ADOPTION OF COUNCIL MINUTES OF JUNE 2, 2020**

*Moved by June Commanda*

*Seconded by Rick Stevens to approve the Council Minutes of June 2, 2020 as presented.*

*Carried*

**6. DELEGATIONS / PRESENTATIONS**

**(a) Tree Removal – Dutch Elm Disease.**

A briefing note was submitted to Council regarding a completed assessment of the health of Elm trees in residential areas on NFN and NFN owned properties. A total of 465 trees were visually assessed and it was found that 338 of the trees have died from the disease with 56 others showing signs of infection. The cost for removal is between \$1,000 and \$2,000 per tree.

Corey Goulais inquired if funding could be found through the Employment and Training program. Dwayne Nashkawa will investigate funding options and report back to Council.

(b) COVID-19 Funding

Dwayne Nashkawa provided Council with an update on funding received and expenditures during the COVID-19 pandemic. During discussions, it was noted that some Councillors have been approached by staff regarding concerns of inconsistencies in compensation for onsite work during the pandemic. Council was informed that only one formula was approved for employee compensation during the pandemic and that Administration is unaware of any conflicts. Council will follow up with those concerned individuals and inform them of the proper protocols to be used regarding a grievance.

**\*\*Adjournment to the Committee of the Whole**

*Moved by Jane Commanda*

*Seconded by Corey Goulais to adjourn to the Committee of the Whole*

*Carried*

(c) Employee Status Report

Council has requested to receive regular briefings on changes to employee status. These will be put on the Agenda as item # 10 (c) Employee Update

Council has also requested to receive the Employee Newsletter. During discussions it was noted that this Newsletter had not been issued for some time due to the pandemic, however an issue was distributed on Friday, July 3, 2020 and was sent to Council.

(d) Emergency Response Update

Dwayne Nashkawa informed Council that a formal de-briefing and evaluation on NFN's response during the COVID-19 pandemic has not taken place yet. Currently Administration is working on the response plan for the second wave, expected sometime in the fall. A business continuity plan has been developed, as well as new protocols for compensation and the food security program.

**\*\*Adjournment from the Committee of the Whole**

*Moved by Corey Goulais*

*Seconded by Rick Stevens to adjourn from the Committee of the Whole*

*Carried*

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM LAST MEETING(S):**

Rick Stevens inquired about the status of fibre optic connections in Garden Village. Council was informed that Bruce McLeod, Projects Manager, is actively working on solutions to the internet and cell phone connectivity issues.

**8. REPORTS:**

(a) Chief's Report

Chief McLeod provided a verbal report on his business over the last 2 weeks.

- a. Beach in Yellek – Chief McLeod addressed concerns brought forth by members and a property owner in Yellek, regarding beach access. This is an ongoing issue brought forth each summer. Council requests that Cameron Welch, Director of Lands and Natural Resources complete a report on this beach area and submit it to Council with recommendations for a final resolution.
- b. Union of Ontario Indians – The Chief expressed his concerns to the U.O.I. regarding their complete summer closure and lack of resources or guidance during the pandemic. There is an upcoming online meeting, and when the Chief has details, he will forward them to Council.
- c. Work from home – The Chief is working mostly from home. With the Administration office closed to the public, his presence in the office is not necessary.

(b) Councillor Reports

- a. Deputy Chief Muriel Sawyer – AES meetings have continued during the pandemic. The KEB 2019-2020 annual report is now available online. The KEB is currently developing a teaching tool to be shared with boards and our schools that focuses on culture, language and tradition. The Ministry of Education announced funding for student computers and mental health; it is unknown at this time how many dollars will be directed towards NFN.
- b. Councillor Rick Stevens – Monthly meetings with the hospital board continue.

(c) Chief Executive Officer's Report

Dwayne provided a verbal and written report to Council covering the following topics:

- a. IT Security Upgrades – Approximately \$200,000.00 has been spent on necessary security upgrades.
- b. Social Issues in Garden Village – There has been a strong response both on the part of the Administration and the APS to the emerging social issues in the Semo Subdivision and other areas of Garden Village. A notice was posted to the community on July 3, 2020 outlining the measures that are being taken. In addition, Administration is working with the Social Services Department to develop a community outreach program that can provide direct assistance and increased presence of social workers in those areas experiencing challenging circumstances.
- c. APS Detachment – A project team is being assembled to scope out the new detachment for the APS in Nipissing. Bruce McLeod, Matti Primeau, Al Naveau and Dwayne Nashkawa will make up this team for the time being. APS has money to contribute to this project. An option for consideration is adding a new fire hall in Jocko Point for this project. The current hall is still functional; however, the attached community hall has exceeded its life span and is not safe for public use. The team is exploring opportunities and costs to replace this infrastructure and close the community hall permanently. The team is also looking at cost saving and generating measures for this project and for critical infrastructure repairs/replacement in the Jocko Point area.  
During discussions, follow up information was provided on the issue of a call into APS that was not addressed. APS Chief is aware of the incident and is handling the matter internally. Members are to be encouraged to use the 1-888-310-1122 number when calling for non-emergency police assistance, and not to call the local detachment number.
- d. Duchesnay Bridge Update - Due to COVID-19, there has been a delay in the construction of the bridge girders. This delay may necessitate the bridge being closed until Spring 2021. Administration is looking at ways to address this issue and keep the timeframes on track. The matter is being discussed with the MTO and further updates will be provided as new information becomes available.

(d) Special Council Minutes of June 19, 2020

*Moved by Mike Sawyer*

*Seconded by Muriel Sawyer to approve the Special Council Minutes of June 19, 2020 as presented.  
Carried*

9. NEW BUSINESS:

(a) Outdoor Fires Law No. LM-2020-02

Council was provided a draft of the Outdoor Fire Law. It was recommended to begin the enactment process.

*Moved by Corey Goulais*

*Seconded by Jane Commanda to begin the enactment process for the NFN Outdoor Fire Law.  
Carried*

(b) Hydro One Customer Service Contract

*Moved by Rick Stevens*

*Seconded by Muriel Sawyer to approve the Hydro One Customer Service Contract.  
Carried*

(c) Green Stream, VLA Water Treatment Plant BCR #1911

*Moved by Jane Commanda*

*Seconded by Corey Goulais to approve the VLA Water Treatment Plant BCR #1911*

*Carried*

#### 10. STANDING ITEMS

(a) Annuities Claim

Chief McLeod provided an update on the Annuities Claim. Phase 1 and 2 are complete and have been won. The Province is appealing the Phase 1 decision and it is expected they will appeal the Phase 2 decision as well; however, this does not stop the process from moving forward. Phase 3 is expected to begin next year, which will deal with compensation.

(b) Cannabis

There are now three (3) operational recreational cannabis stores on NFN. The AGCO is monitoring sales and regulations closely and will be implementing secret shoppers to ensure quality and safety protocols are being followed.

#### 11. INFORMATION ITEMS

(a) Appointment of Proxy – LAB Meeting.

#### 12. ADJOURNMENT

The council meeting of July 7, 2020 adjourned at 11:41 am.

*Moved by Rick Stevens*

*Seconded by Jane Commanda to adjourn the meeting of July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020.*

*Carried*

\*\* The next Council meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, August 4, 2020 at 7:00 pm \*\*