



Tuesday, October 20, 2020: Multi-Purpose Building Duchesnay: 7:00 pm

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Present:	Chief	Scott McLeod
	Deputy-Chief	Muriel Sawyer
	Councillors	Brian Couchie
		Jane Commanda
		June Commanda
		Michael Sawyer
		Rick Stevens
	Chief Executive Officer	Brendan Huston
	Strategic Advisor	Dwayne Nashkawa
	Chief Financial Officer	Tammy Saulis
	Recorder	Freda Martel
	On-Line Guests	Don Garriot, KPMG
		Gerald Laronde, NFN Fin.& Audit Committee
		Kevin Sanderson, KPMG
		Melissa Penasse
Regrets:	Councillor	Corey Goulais

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1. Meeting commenced at 7:10 pm.

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 7:10 pm \*\***

3. Committee of the Whole:

(a) Personnel Matter

Dwayne Nashkawa informed that due to an oversight, the Social Services Manager position has been re-titled Director of Social Services. This will bring this position in line with other director positions within the organization.

4. Adjournment from the Committee of the Whole:

Moved by Michael Sawyer

Seconded by Jane Commanda to adjourn from the committee of the whole.

Carried.

**\*\* Meeting adjourned from the committee of the whole at 7:12 pm. \*\***

5. Adoption of Agenda:

Additions:

- Item 6(c) Mi'kmaq Lobster Fishery
- Item 6(d) Anishinabek Nation – Anti-Stigma Campaign
- Item 9(d)-(g) Re-signing Land Allotment Resolutions

Moved by Brian Couchie

Seconded by Rick Stevens to approve the Council Agenda of October 20, 2020 with additions.

6. Adoption of Council Minutes of October 6, 2020:

Moved by Muriel Sawyer

Seconded by June Commanda to approve the Council Minutes of October 6, 2020 as presented.

Carried.

7. Delegations/Presentations:

(a) **Addiction Crisis – Community Effort**

A member attended the Council meeting on-line to discuss a community effort in coordinating sharing circles in response to the addiction crisis happening at NFN. The member suggested that that perhaps a safe healing house could be established in the community, as the current NFN program does not provide enough support to the individual and can only accommodate 1 ½ to 3 hours of counselling, as well has a waiting list so most people cannot access immediate service. Support required to deal with addiction could take as long as 2 years. At this time, the community-based sharing circles have been taking place which are being led by two members. These circles offer an opportunity for members to share their stories and struggles. The member also expressed concern regarding a staff members reluctance to share statistical information due to repercussions; it was felt that this information should be readily available to any member. It was also felt that not much support was being provided by NFN for this community sharing circle, as requests for assistance are not being responded to as well, no one in leadership roles with NFN attend these circles to offer support. Understanding that the current pandemic does pose some issues, a request was made to have another teepee available so two can be available for larger attendance; this would allow the group to meet in a safe manner and follow pandemic protocols. Chief Scott McLeod informed the member that NFN does support the concept, but there are concerns with the circle not having any professional support in place for members who may require more professional services to deal with trauma issues. This is out of concern for the safety and health of the individuals. Dwayne informed Council that NFN does have another teepee available and a staff member can be assigned to be the main contact for this community-based program. Brendan Huston, Chief Executive Officer will provide follow-up on behalf of Council.

(b) **NFN Audit Presentation**

Kevin Sanderson, Auditor with KPMG, provided an overview of NFN's Financial Information for the year ended March 31, 2020. Due to COVID-19 this year's audit was conducted remotely. Council was provided with a written presentation that outlined the Statement of Management Responsibilities which outlines NFN's financial responsibilities, the Auditors Report that addresses the auditor's opinions in accordance with auditing practices. Other information presented included the Audit Procedures, NFN's statement of financial position in comparison to previous year to March 31, 2020, as well as a list of new capital assets purchased, Statement of Operations, Reconciliation of Annual Surplus, Reconciliation of Program Variances, Accumulated Surplus and Matters of Communication that outline the audit process as it stands today, where the audit requires Council approval of Financial Statements to complete. The Auditors informed council that NFN had a very successful year and is in a solid financial position.

In regards to the Financial Statements, Housing mortgages and other long-term receivables, Gerald Laronde inquired as to the status of the Fur Dressing building mortgage and Off-reserve solar project loans. Council was informed that these are receivables. In regards to the Fur Dressing building the building which was purchased from NFN by Miller and the loan will be paid in full in 3-4 years. The solar project has not had any new additions, the amount listed is revenue received from this business venture.

An inquiry was made regarding the delays on the Bridge Project. Dwayne informed Council that the delay in the project was due to girders which were held up due to the COVID-19 and manufacturing and shipping delays at borders. The project will be completed next year when paving can take place.

Moved by Rick Stevens

Seconded by Brian Couchie to approve NFN Financial Statements for the year ended March 31, 2020.

Carried.

(c) **Mi'maq Lobster Fishery – Support**

Discussion took place regarding the concern of the treaties, as there is a difference where some treaties provide treaty rights and the Mi'maq Treaty of 1752 is more of a peace and friendship treaty, however the Supreme Court ruling for the Mi'maq community speaks about moderate livelihood and the Crowns protecting the interest of Mi'maq. The concern is with the "moderate livelihood" wording in this document. Chief Scott McLeod informed Council that he has been providing support and will be working with Genevieve Couchie, Communications Officer on a statement on behalf of Chief and Council in support of this First Nation. He has also reached out to Chief Sake offering NFN's support in sharing NFN's history dealing with commercial fisheries and management experiences.

(d) **Anishinabek Nation – HIV – Anti-Stigma Campaign**

Deputy-Chief Muriel Sawyer informed Council that a request has been submitted to Council from Laura Liberty, HIV Coordinator for Council's participation in a harm reduction anti-stigma campaign inviting participation in a photoshoot next week at Regan Studio in North Bay. Council was informed that Lisa Lurz, Addictions Counsellor also participates on this committee. Freda will forward a copy of the request to Council for their information and Freda Martel will coordinate a date and time for Council's attendance.

8. **Unfinished Business From Last Meeting:**

(a) **Couchie Memorial Drive – Winter Road Maintenance**

Steve Doucette, Public Works Manager provided a Briefing Note with recommendations on the winter road maintenance for Couchie Memorial Drive and all other roads. These recommendations include the storage of the truck for plowing at the Duchesnay Fire Hall and use of pickled sand on roadways. Council is in agreement with these recommendations.

(b) **Disposal of Fish Waste**

Chief Scott McLeod informed Council that the Natural Resources staff is working on this and will submit a report at a later date.

(c) **Assisting Living Project – Update**

Dwayne informed Council that he will provide a financial update on this project once he meets with Kimberly Lalonde, Health Services Director. Deferred.

9. **Reports:**

None.

10. **New Business:**

(a) **Council Resolutions Signed:**

a.	Cannabis Fiscal and Regulatory Jurisdiction	#1918
b.	Land Allotment – Lot 255 Garden Village	#LNS2495
c.	Land Allotment – Lot 11 Meadowside	#LNS2497
d.	Land Allotment – Lot 14 Meadowside	#LNS2500
e.	Land Allotment – Lot 260 Garden Village	#LNS2485
f.	NFN Signing Authority	#1919

(b) **Business License Expansion**

Michael Harney, Economic Development Manager provided a Briefing Note on the expansion of Arrowhead Gas Bar and Convenience to include a propane dispensary. The recommendation of the Business Licensing Committee was to grant this approval with conditions.

Moved by Muriel Sawyer

Seconded by Jane Commanda to amend the Business License for Charles Avery for Arrowhead Gas Bar and Convenience to include a propane dispensary.  
Carried.

11. **Standing Items:**

- (a) **Annuities Claim** – Brendon provided a brief update on the status of the Robinson Huron Annuities claim to date. He informed Council that the hearing for stage 1 was delayed due to COVID-19 and the expected appeal hearing date is now scheduled for January 2021. The appeal for stage 2 is scheduled for June 2021. Stage 3 of this process has started with the retaining of Economists and Historians who will review documents to determine compensation. Chief McLeod informed Council that due to the amount of work that still needs to take place, no dates are known when this case will be completed.
- (b) **Cannabis** – Dwayne informed Council that meetings will take place with owners of cannabis retail businesses to get their insights in order to prepare an approach to the cannabis discussions.
- (c) **Employee Updates** – Council was informed that Curtis Avery, Environmental Officer has commenced employment with the Lands and Natural Resources Department.

12. Adjournment:

Moved by June Commanda  
Seconded by Jane Commanda to adjourn this meeting.  
Carried.

\*\* Meeting adjourned at 9:28 pm \*\*

\*\* The next Council meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, November 3,  
2020 at 7:00 pm \*\*