



A-Kii, Bemaadzijk, E-Niigaanwang  
The Land, The People, The Future

## Council Minutes

Tuesday, December 1, 2020: Virtual Meeting: 7:00 pm

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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	Brendan Huston
	Strategic Advisor	Dwyane Nashkawa
	Executive Assistant/RECORDER	Kimberly Salvaneschi
	Online Guests	
Regrets:	Councillor(s)	N/A

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*Closed Session:*

**\*\*ADJOURNMENT TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE\*\***

*Moved by Brian Couchie*

*Seconded by Jane Commanda to adjourn to the committee of the whole at 7:10 pm.*

*Carried.*

**\*\*ADJOURNMENT FROM THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE\*\***

*Moved by Jane Commanda*

*Seconded by Muriel Sawyer to adjourn from the committee of the whole at 7:51 pm.*

*Carried.*

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**1. OPENING MIIGWECHIWIN**

The meeting commenced at 7:52 pm with opening prayer given by June Commanda.

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

*Moved by Brian Couchie*

*Seconded by Muriel Sawyer to approve the Council Agenda of December 1, 2020, as presented.*

*Carried*

**3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICT**

None.

**4. COUNCIL TRAVEL**

None.

**5. ADOPTION OF COUNCIL MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2020**

Amendments made to a Committee of the Whole item number 9(a).

Noted: 11 (e) Marriage Solemnization – Administration was to have someone speak to Elders and traditional knowledge carries concerning this process and matrimonial traditions. Council requests that this follow up be on the next agenda.

*Moved by Jane Commanda*

*Seconded by Brian Couchie to approve the Council Minutes of November 17, 2020, as amended.*

*Carried.*

**6. DELEGATIONS / PRESENTATIONS:**

**(a) Incidental Cabin Request**

Council discussed a request made by a member seeking support for an application for an Incidental Cabin in the area of Lake Manitou, which is located north of Field, Ontario. If approved the member will submit the application with approval BCR to the MNRF for review. Incidental Cabins are community use buildings; the member is aware and plans to use the camp for this purpose with family and friends. During discussions, Council decided that a letter of support will be drafted in such a way to indicate NFN's permission, regardless of the MNRF's approval. This letter is to be cc'd to RHT Group as well, to be including in further discussions. Council requests that Cameron Welch, Director of Lands and Natural Resources begin the creation of NFN Policy and Law for Incidental Cabins on Crown Lands.

*Moved by Rick Stevens*

*Seconded by June Commanda to support the members application for an Incidental Cabin in the area of Lake Manitou. BCR LNS #2517 to be signed.*

*Carried.*

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM LAST MEETING**

**(a) Assisted Living Project**

Dwayne Nashkawa provided Council with a briefing note on the progress related to the development of up to 20 assisted living units on Nipissing First Nation. It is proposed to have 10 units located in the east end and 10 units in Garden Village. The project is still in the early consulting stage.

**(b) Peace Hills Trust Donation**

Peace Hills Trust donated to Nipissing First Nation in the amount of \$5000.00 as a in lieu of fundraising endeavors that were not able to take place this past year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Administration is recommending that these funds be divided equally between two programs. The Food Bank to receive \$2500.00 to purchase additional food staples for members during the holiday season. Santa Fund/Gift Baskets to receive \$2500.00 to purchase extra baskets for Seniors in lieu of the annual Christmas gathering.

*Moved by June Commanda*

*Seconded by Muriel Sawyer to approve the use of the Peace Hills Trust Donation as recommended.*

*Carried.*

**(c) Grassroot Community Gathering**

As a follow up to the November 3, 2020, Council Meeting, request by a member, Council had requested more information.

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020, a meeting took place with the two members hosting these gatherings, Kimberly Lalonde, Health Service Director, Brendan Huston, Chief Executive Officer, and Freda Martel, Director of Administration. During these discussions it was clarified that the two members facilitating these sessions have experience in hosting these circles and know what to watch for in case someone is triggered. The two members hosting the circles have knowledge of NFN Culture and Social Services and are eager to obtain more knowledge and training. In addition, attendees are also provided with information on NFN and external services. Administration concluded that the necessary supports are in place to mitigate potential risks and recommend the following:

That; Kimberly Lalonde, Health Services Manage will coordinate training sessions on Mental Health First Aid, ASSIST Training and Naloxone Training, for the hosts.

That; the Grassroots Community gatherings will take place on Thursday's at the teepee behind the Right Path Building. Coordination of wood and washroom facilities will be made by the Health Centre.

That; One host, an NFN employee, will be invited to participate in the Social Core Group meetings to provide input and keep updated on the Outreach Program that is being developed.

That; One member will be kept updated on any progress or discussion regarding safe/transitional I housing.

*Moved by Corey Goulais*

*Seconded by Brian Couchie to approve administrations recommendations regarding the Grassroot Community Gatherings as presented.*

*Carried.*

## **8. REPORTS**

### **(a) Chief's Report**

The Chief provided a verbal report of NFN Business since the last meeting. Chief McLeod indicated that he sits on the Disciplinary Board with APS and is also a member of the RHT Group.

### **(b) Chief Executive Officer's Report**

Brendan provided Council with a written report outlining new hires, key agenda items for the Council Strategic Planning sessions, the development of Land Purchase Criteria and Policy, and the Outreach Program, currently in development.

### **(c) Land Issue Minutes of October 9, 2020**

*Moved by Brian Couchie*

*Seconded by Muriel Sawyer to approve the Land Issue Minutes of October 9, 2020, as presented.*

*Carried.*

### **(d) Kinoomaagewin Aanke Giigdownin (Education) Minutes of November 9, 2020**

The Education Committee recommends that Chief and Council commemorate 25 years of Nbsiing Secondary School's operation. The Education Committee suggest the following ideas to celebrate the milestone:

A banner outside of the school

A message on the electronic message boards outside each community division.

Video messages from students, alumni, and faculty to be shared on the NFN and Nbsiing's websites and social media.

A research project to compile success stories o alumni over the last 25 years.

Council is agreeing to the committee and/or school staff making the arrangements for the above recommendations, and to forward necessary information to Genevieve Couchie, Communications Officer, for posting.

*Moved by Jane Commanda*

*Seconded by Rick Stevens to approve the Kinoomaagewin Aanke Giigdownin (Education) Minutes of November 9, 2020, with recommendations, as presented.*

*Carried.*

## **9. NEW BUSINESS**

### **(a) Council Resolutions / Agreements for Signed:**

- i. CMHC Section 95 Project – RE: Hydro One
- ii. CMHC Section 95 Phase 5 renewal agreement

**(b) Housing Replacement Fund – 171 A & B Juniper Crescent**

A briefing note provided by Shawn Anderson, Housing Manager, explains that there are funds in replacement reserve for asset maintenance repairs to CMHC apartment complexes. The units at 171 A&B Juniper Crescent need renovations. The recommendation is to use the available funds to replace the windows at the property to protect the longevity of the NFN asset.

*Moved by Rick Stevens*

*Seconded by Brian Couchie to approve the use of Housing replacement reserves as recommended.*

*Carried.*

**(c) Land Claim Settlement Trust Member Appointment**

A notice was posted to Debendaagziwaad seeking a Trustee for the 2013 Boundary Claim Trust on-reserve seat which becomes vacant December 31, 2020. The deadline for submissions was November 20, 2020. The applications were reviewed by Brandan Huston, CEO and Freda Martel, DOA who make the following recommendation:

To appoint Joan McLeod-Shabogesic as NFN's on-reserve representative to the 2013 Boundary Claim Trust for a 2-year term effective January 1, 2021 and ending on December 31, 2023. Should Ms. McLeod-Shabogesic not accept this appointment the seat will be offered to the next candidate.

*Moved by Muriel Sawyer*

*Seconded by Brian Couchie to appoint NFN's on-reserve representation to the 2013 Boundary Claim Trust as recommended.*

*Carried.*

**(d) Employee Years of Service Award**

An Employee Years of Service Standards & Recognition program has been in effect since March 13, 2013. These service awards are given to employee's yearly at the Staff Appreciation Day which is normally held in September. Unfortunately, due to COVID, the Staff Appreciation Day was not held this year. Instead an Employee Recognition/Christmas Celebration Day is planned to be held virtually on December 16, 2020. Awards will be presented that day along with the Bernadette Goulais Award and Nishnaabemwin Award.

In preparation for that event it is noted that any awards past 30 years were not considered, in the original document. Since that time, NFN has a staff member who has reached 40 years of service. (in October 2020) Therefore the following recommendations are made:

To add a 40 Years of Service award in the amount of \$750.00

To authorize department managers to purchase additional gift(s) from their departments to a budget maximum of \$500.00

*Moved by Muriel Sawyer*

*Seconded by Rick Stevens to amend the Employee Years of Service Award Program as recommended.*

*Carried.*

**(e) Cannabis Agreement**

Dwayne provided council with a written briefing note, and a proposed Negotiation Protocol in pursuit of an agreement that benefits NFN retailer, protects NFN Debendaagziwaad and harmonizes NFN and Ontario Laws.

*Moved by Brian Couchie*

*Seconded by Corey Goulais to accept the Negotiation Protocol as presented.*

*Carried.*

**(f) Business COVID Support Funding**

Deferred.

**(g) Scent Free Policy**

Council was provided by the Human Resources Department a Scent Free Policy which was reviewed by the Policy Committee on November 26, 2020. The policy committee reviewed the policy and recommends that Council approve the policy as presented.

*Moved by Michael Sawyer*

*Seconded by Jane Commanda to accept the Scent Free Policy as presented.*

*Carried.*

**(h) Finance Brief Note – Budget Process Update**

As a follow up to the Council meeting on June 2, 2020, Council approved the 2020-2021 budget as interim budgets. Because of Covid-19 some programming was not able to take place and new revenue streams were provide by external agencies which are now accounted for in the updated budgets.

**10. STANDING ITEMS**

**(a) Annuities Claim**

N/A

**(b) Cannabis**

This was covered in item 9(e)

**(c) Election Code**

Voting is now open as of December 1, 2020. Packages will be sent out to all Debendaagziwaad.

**11. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**(a) Environment Report**

A written report was provided by Curtis Avery, Environmental Officer for their information.

**(b) Education/Lifelong Learning Poster Campaign.**

Council was provided a letter from the Education Department in regard to a poster that was created. Two posters have been framed and will be hung in the new and main section of the Administration Offices.

**(c) Business Arising from the Previous Meeting**

Update provided. During discussions, Council requests that an update on the Cell service be provided at the next meeting.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

*Moved by Muriel Sawyer*

*Seconded by Jane Commanda to adjourn the Council Meeting of December 1, 2020 at 9:23.*

*Carried and Adjourned.*

**\*\* The next NFN Council meeting is scheduled to take place on December 15, 2020, regular session begins at 7:30 pm. \*\***

**\*\*All noted "written reports" have been filed in the central and electronic filing system. \*\***