

Council Minutes

Tuesday, December 15th, 2020: Virtual Meeting: 7:30 pm

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
	Recorder/Dir. Of Admin	Freda Martel

1. Meeting commenced at 7:10 pm.

2. Adjournment to the Committee of the Whole:

Moved by Brian Couchie

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

Carried.

**** Meeting adjourned to the committee of the whole at 7:10 pm ****

Adjournment from The Committee of the Whole:

Moved by Brian Couchie

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

Carried.

**** Meeting adjourned from the committee of the whole at 7:47 pm ****

1. Meeting commenced at 7:47 pm.

2. Adoption of Agenda:

Moved by Muriel Sawyer

Seconded by June Commanda to approve the Council Agenda of December 15th, 2020 as presented.

Carried.

3. Disclosures of Conflict:

Councillor June Commanda declared a potential conflict with Item 6(b) concerning Animal Control.

4. Council Travel:

None. Travel is restricted at this time due to Covid.

5. Adoption of Council Minutes of December 1st, 2020:

Item 9(g) change "revied" to read "reviewed"

Item 11(a) change "Cutis" to read "Curtis"

Moved by Jane Commanda

Seconded by Brian Couchie to approve the Council Minutes of December 1st, 2020 as corrected.

Carried.

6. Delegations / Presentations:

(a) Make A Wish – Hospital Activity Book Donation & Briefing Note

A written request was received from Sick Kids Foundation seeking a donation to The Hospital Activity Book for Children. Brendan Huston reviewed a briefing with Council advising that funds are available for this donation and recommended that a display ad in the amount of \$239.00 be purchased.

Moved by Muriel Sawyer

Seconded by Corey Goulais to approve a donation in the amount of \$239.00 for the purpose of purchasing a Display Ad in The Hospital Activity Book for Children from the donation account.

Carried.

(b) Animal Control Complaint & Briefing Note

A letter concerning an animal control issue in Duchesnay. Council was provided with Briefing Notes from the Natural Resources Department on the handling of this matter. It was suggested that monitoring at different times during the evening could take place to deal with these issues. This matter was noted and filed. A letter will be sent to the complainant.

(c) Rinks

Councillor Rick Stevens was inquired as to the status of the rink operations. Brendan informed Council that a plan has been developed for the opening of the rink for this season which was guided by the Community Control Group. Being one week behind schedule, the plan is still in place to open, limiting the attendance on and around the area to 25 people, keeping Covid safety protocols in place and hiring of monitors. The hours of the rink will be from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm, however, washroom facilities will not be available. Councillor Stevens informed Council that washrooms should be made available and the hours should be extended as the older children normally attend the rink later in the evening. Brendan informed Council that the washroom facilities would not be open as these would need to be cleaned after each use, and not something that the committee was comfortable having open due to risk of Covid. It was suggested that perhaps porta-johns could be brought in. Council was informed that these will be addressed further. Council was informed that rink attendance will be limited to NFN members and residents of Nipissing First Nation and opening date will be dependent on weather for ice conditions.

7. Unfinished Business from Last Meeting:

(a) Marriage Solemnization.

Brendan reviewed a briefing note submitted by Dwayne Nashkawa, Special Advisor, informing Council that he will be meeting with an Elder concerning marriage solemnization and will be considering other focus groups to gather insight on the development of a program. He will provide an update in the new Year.

It was recommended that when addressing this, a clear understanding of traditional weddings should be part of this discussion.

(b) Business Covid Funding Support

Chief Scott McLeod declared conflict and left the call.

Brendan reviewed a briefing note to provide recommendations on the allocation of Covid fund for businesses which was received from Indigenous Services Canada. The amount allocated to NFN was just under \$94K and funds were to be used to strengthen operations and increase the viability of the First Nation. Council was informed that there are 70 NFN licensed businesses. A recommendation was to do a hybrid model where funds would be distributed evenly with registered NFN businesses and a "Basket of Goods" model where purchases will be made from NFN registered business stores which will be made distributed to NFN membership via raffles and members in need.

Moved by Brian Couchie

Seconded by Muriel Sawyer to approve the distribution of business Covid funds as per option #3 that blends NFN registered business distribution and Basket of Goods distribution.

Carried.

(c) Cell Service – Connectivity

Bruce McLeod, Special Project Manager, provided a memo to Council providing background information and provided an update on a funding application for broadband internet, as well as an update on the application for increased cellular service for NFN. In regard to the broadband internet application, Council was informed that the application deadline was December 11, 2020 and if the application is approved it moves to a next stage process which is January 27, 2021 with a final decision in the Spring of 2021. Council was informed that one of the challenges is that the cell service is controlled by the bigger cellular companies. A suggestion was to follow up with Wikewomikong as they received cellular service from Star Link, and they may be able to provide some guidance on the process they took. Councillor Stevens informed Council that the application needs to be for "air" and not fibre option; this is the type of funding application that needs to be pursued. Bruce will continue to pursue options and opportunities for cellular needs.

8. Reports:

(a) Health & Social Services Committee minutes of March 4, November 18 and December 2, 2020

Nov 18/2020 - Item 9.1 – In regard to the recommendation of the committee to construct a residential treatment Centre, Council was informed that an Outreach Program is being created which will keep statistics and data to consider future needs, such as this suggestion.

Dec 2/2020 – Item 5.2.1 change "Peach" to read "Peace"

Moved by Jane

Seconded by Corey to approve the Health, Social & Wellness Committee Minutes of March 4, 2020, November 18, 2020 as presented and December 2, 2020 as corrected.

Carried.

9. New Business:

(a) BCR's / Agreements Signed:

Council was informed that as meetings are being conducted online, motions will be required for the agreements and resolutions. Kimberly Salvaneschi, Executive Assistant will coordinate signatures following Council meetings.

- (i) CMHC Section 95 Project – re: Hydro One 302 A & B Yellek
(connection signatures of Council to allow for the installation hydro)

Moved by Brian Couchie

Seconded by Jane Commanda to approve the agreement with Hydro One for connection services to unit 302 A & B in Yellek.

Carried.

- (ii) Nipissing 2013 Boundary Claim Trust #1922

Moved by Michael Sawyer

Seconded by Corey Goulais to approve Council Resolutions #1922 approving expenditures for the 2013 Boundary Claim Trust.

Carried

- (iii) Greenhouse Project NOHFC & FedNor Grant #1912 Amended

Moved by Muriel Sawyer

Seconded by Brian Couchie to approve Council Resolution #1912 Amended in support to funding for the Greenhouse Project.

Carried.

- (iv) Membership Transfer #M-125

Moved by Jane Commanda

Seconded by Corey Goulais to approve Council Resolution #M-125 approving the transfer of Stacy Surowaniec to the membership of Nipissing First Nation.

Carried.

(b) Policies:

- (i) Preventing Covid in the Workplace Policy.

Brendan informed Council that an amendment was made to the Preventing Covid in the Workplace Policy to address staff members self-isolating if they have visitors from out-of-country.

Moved by Brian Couchie

Seconded by Michael Sawyer to approve the amendment to the Preventing Covid in the Workplace Policy.

Carried.

10. Standing Items:

- a. Annuities Claim – Chief McLeod informed Council that there are no updates, however the appeal is scheduled for January.
- b. Cannabis – Dwayne Nashkawa will provide an update to Council at the next Council meeting.
- c. Election Code – Brendan informed Council that due to the Christmas season mail deliveries were slowed down and some members are only receiving the Election Voting package now, therefore, the vote date was extended to January 31st, 2021.

11. Information Items:

- (a) Peace Hills Trust Donation – update.
- (b) Managers Reports to Council – An inquiry was made as to whether Council would be getting updates from the Human Resources Department that would provide information on exit interviews, hiring processes etc., and whether this can be made available to Council. Brendan informed Council that administration and finance is purely administration, however, if Council wishes to have some supplementary information, a report can be prepared. He also informed Council that an electronic HR software program will be implemented in approximately 6 months, which would assist in gathering this data, as well succession planning and recruiting membership for NFN employment opportunities will be addressed.
- (c) Bulldozer Purchase – Update on purchase of bulldozer for the Landfill site with funds approved by Indigenous Services Canada.

12. Adjournment.

Moved by Jane Commanda
Seconded by Muriel Sawyer to adjourn this meeting.
Carried.

** Meeting concluded at 9:05 pm **

** The next Council meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 **