



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

Council Minutes
Tuesday, January 19, 2021: Virtual Meeting: 7:00 pm

Present:	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	N/A
Regrets:	Chief	Scott McLeod

Closed Session:

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

Moved by Brian Couchie

Seconded by Michael Sawyer to adjourn to the committee of the whole at 7:10 pm.

Carried.

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

Moved by Rick Stevens

Seconded by Brian Couchie to adjourn from the committee of the whole at 7:27 pm.

Carried.

1. OPENING MIIGWECHIWIN

The meeting commenced at 7:27 pm with opening prayer given by June Commanda.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Corey Goulais

Seconded by Jane Commanda to approve the Council Agenda of January 19, 2021, as presented.

Carried.

3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICT

None.

4. COUNCIL TRAVEL

Travel is not permitted at this time due to Covid-19.

5. ADOPTION OF COUNCIL MINUTES OF DECEMBER 15TH, 2020

Change, Page 3 Header to read December 15, 2020

Moved by Brian Couchie

Seconded by Michael Sawyer to approve the Council Minutes of December 15th, 2020, as amended.

Carried.

6. DELEGATIONS / PRESENTATIONS

(a) **Coldest Night of the Year Sponsorship**

A donation request was submitted by The Gathering Place, host of this year's event "Coldest night of the Year." The request is for sponsorship of this event, aimed at raising funds to support the needs of North Bay and area homeless population.

More information regarding this inactive can be found at <http://cnoy.org/>

Council agreed on a donation of \$500.00

Moved by June Commanda

Seconded by Jane Commanda to support the sponsorship request for the Coldest Night of the Year, in the amount of \$500.00.

Carried.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM LAST MEETING

None.

8. REPORTS

(a) **Chief's Report**

Deferred to next Council meeting.

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

CEO, Brendan Huston provided a written report:

Over the Christmas break and December office closure, Ontario announced a Provincial lockdown and most recently, a stay-at-home order. We have moved into work from home environment as NFN offices will remain closed until February 16th unless there is a demonstrated need for an employee or contractor to be on-site to perform their duties. Only staff who cannot work from home will be permitted to be on-site to perform their duties. This is to minimize contact to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within our community in line with enhanced public health measures requiring workplaces to ensure all employees work from home if they can.

Summary of administration and community impacts are the following:

- NFN Daycares: The Couchie Memorial Daycare and Nipissing Ojibway Daycare remain open for existing registrants, and where both parents/guardians require childcare due to work obligations.
- NFN Afterschool Program: Closed until Monday, February 15th. - NFN Businesses: Essential businesses (providing gas and/or groceries) can continue operating with COVID-19 safety precautions in place. Non-essential businesses can only be open between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Businesses can provide products/services via curbside pick-up or delivery only until February 11th.
- Garden Village Outdoor Rink: Closed effective January 14, 2021 and until further notice. This closure is in accordance with the requirements issued today by the Medical Officer of Health to close all outdoor public ice rinks and sliding hills in the Nipissing Parry Sound District.
- Shuttle Service (Duchesnay Creek Bridge): Hours of operation reduced to 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. - Enhanced Security Patrols: Extended until Wednesday, February 10th across NFN communities.
- Gathering Limits: Limit close contact to household members. Those who live alone or are a single parent may join one other household. Up to five (5) people may gather outdoors as long as you can keep 2 meters' physical distance from each other. You should also wear a mask or face covering. Up to ten (10) people can attend a wedding, funeral or religious service. Fines for not following gathering rules are being enforced (organizers can be fined up to \$10,000 and each attendee may receive a \$750 ticket).

Nbisiing Secondary School

In response to the original lockdown order in December, was to offer virtual classes until Jan 22nd with a return to in-person learning on January 25th. However, given the recent stay at-home order Nbisiing will extend virtual classes until Feb 12th with a return to in-person classes on February 16th.

Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement (ANGA) Update

On Wednesday, January 13th, NFN hosted the first of three virtual open houses in January with Chief McLeod, Fred Bellefeuille, Patrick Madahbee and Lisa Restoule-Brazier to provide information on the ANGA and to answer questions before the vote in February. Over 30 individuals attended as it provided an opportunity for Chief and ANGA technical supports to answer direct questions from our membership related to the ANGA. Our next session is this Wednesday, January 20th at 6pm with our final virtual open house scheduled for January 27th at 6pm. During the debrief session following our last open house, we discussed the involvement of leadership in communicating the facts regarding this initiative as this is a component of our communications strategy. Council will be contacted individually to discuss what of the following options they would like to participate in:

- Group video including all members of Council to show unity in moving forward with this second vote, and to encourage people to learn more and vote.
- Individual video vignette to speak to either what governance means to you and/or one (or more) of the four key areas: citizenship, leadership selection, language & culture and operations and management.
- Community Champion outreach by providing assistance in reaching out to community champions identified by our technical support staff. There will be an honorarium for community members who participate.

Outreach Program

Administration is in the process of designing an Outreach Program with support of consultant Beverley Bourget. This program would serve to address wellness challenges here in the community by building relationships with those impacted by these challenges and by connecting them with necessary programming/services. This program will be built upon the premise that we are meeting individuals where they are at and helping facilitate connections with appropriate services. We have now completed consultations with managers and senior staff (including the Social Core Committee, Right Path Program, and Health & Social Services Staff) to identify gaps in current programs that would need to be addressed to support the Outreach Program. One of the results of this consultation was a recommendation to conduct some initial outreach with vulnerable/high risk clients to help inform the program design. This survey is currently being conducted until the end of January and is being facilitated through our Health and Social Services staff. Broader community consultations will follow once a draft model is confirmed.

(c) Special Council Minutes of December 21, 2020

Council reviewed the minutes of December 21, 2020.

Moved by Jane Commanda

Seconded by Rick Stevens to approve the Special Council Minutes of December 21, 2020, as presented.

Carried.

(d) Special Council Minutes of January 13th, 2021

Council reviewed the minutes of January 13th, 2021. During discussions an inquiry was made on the status of the minutes of the two meetings held on January 5th, 2021. Administration will provide these minutes for the next Council meeting.

Moved by Brian Couchie

Seconded by Jane Commanda to approve the Special Council Minutes of January 13th, 2020, as presented.

Carried.

(e) Lands Committee Minutes of December 4th, 2020

Council reviewed the minutes of the Lands Committee meeting on December 4th, 2020.

Moved by Brian Couchie

Seconded by June Commanda to approve the Lands Committee meeting minutes of December 4th, 2020, as presented.

Carried.

9. NEW BUSINESS

(a) Council Resolutions (BCR's) / Agreements Signed:

- i. Ontario Solicitor Funding – true Self Program Peer support BCR #1923

(b) First Nation Conservation Incentive Program

A Briefing note provided by Tom Lambert, Education and Training Manager, explains the delay in this program that began in January 2020. (Covid-19) He would like a support letter for First Nation Engineering Service Ltd. to continue and complete this program for First Nation homes, should the residents wish to continue. Council is in agreement. Administration to complete this support letter for Chief McLeod to sign.

(c) Business License – Farm

A Briefing note prepared by Cameron Welch, Director, Lands and Natural Resources, for the Business Licensing Committee, outlines a proposal of a member to operate a Chicken and Hog Farm. It is noted that the proposed farm was business idea was circulated for public comment, as is policy. The Business Licensing Committee received two responses that were in strong opposition to the project. The Committee and members of the community share many of the same concerns with the project. Location, order, environmental concerns, complaint and liability concerns were raised and discussed. Council is in agreement with the committee's recommendation to deny the business license, and have the committee work with the proponent to identify alternative areas that may be more suitable for the operation of the farm, or in the development of a different business, should the proponent wish to do so.

(d) Land Purchase Policy

Council reviewed the Land Purchase Policy submitted by Cameron Welch, Director, Lands and Natural Resources.

Section 5c. is to be removed

Section 5d. will change to 5c. and is to read "All offers require Council approval...."

Councillor Corey Goulais, questioned this action as he believes this matter was addressed at a previous Council meeting.

Moved by Brian Couchie

Seconded by Michael Sawyer to approve the Lands Purchase Policy, as amended.

Opposed: Corey Goulais

Carried.

10. STANDING ITEMS

(a) Annuities Claim

N/A

(b) Cannabis

Dwayne Nashkawa, Strategic Advisor provided an update on the Cannabis Negotiations. He recommends that a Special Council meeting be held in February to specifically to discuss these negotiations. Dwayne also notes that he is currently working the AGCO to develop a more formal protocol. Details will follow.

(c) Election Code

Voting was extending to the end of January due to mail restrictions as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

During discussion the current Court Case regarding fishery law charges, laid a number of years ago, was discussed. It is noted that the case was before the court this week and will reconvene in May. The Nugget and CBC were covering the proceedings.

11. INFORMATION ITEMS

None.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Brian Couchie

Seconded by Corey Goulais to adjourn the Council Meeting of January 19th, at 8:50.

Carried and Adjourned.

**** The next NFN Council meeting is scheduled to take place on February 9th, 2021, regular session begins at 7:30 pm. ****

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