

**Council Minutes**

**Tuesday, March 16, 2021: On-Line Teams Meeting: 7:30 pm**

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**Present:** Chief Scott McLeod  
 A/Deputy-Chief Rick Stevens  
 Councillors Brian Couchie  
 Corey Goulais  
 Jane Commanda  
 Michael Sawyer  
 Chief Executive Officer Brendan Huston  
 Record/Dir of Admin Freda Martel  
**Regrets:** Councillor June Commanda  
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1. Meeting commenced at 7:34 pm.

2. Adoption of Agenda:

Item 6 (a) 2021-2022 Budgets – deferred to Special Council Meeting.

Moved by Brian Couchie

Seconded by Michael Sawyer to approve the Council Agenda of March 16, 2021 with amendment.

Carried.

3. Disclosures of Conflict:

None.

4. Council Travel:

None.

5. Adoption of Council Minutes of March 2, 2021:

Moved by Jane Commanda

Seconded by Rick Stevens to approve the Council Minutes of March 2, 2021 as presented.

Carried.

6. Delegations / Presentations:

None.

7. Unfinished Business From Last Meeting:

None.

8. Reports:

a. Chief's Report:

Chief McLeod informed Council that he has been dealing with day-to-day issues, mostly with the vaccine roll out. He has been attending meetings with the Assembly of First Nations National Fisheries Committee, the Leadership Council Meetings with Anishinabek Nation, Chiefs of Ontario to receive updates and NFN's Community Control Group. As well, he has been meeting regularly with Dwayne Nashkawa, Strategic Advisor and Brendan Huston, Chief Executive Officer.

b. Chief Executive Officer's Report

Brendan Huston provided a written report to update Council on Covid-19 response to date and an updated on the vaccine given to date. He informed Council that offices remain on a work from home status until April 19, 2021 while Nbisiiing Secondary School will return to in person learning effective March 22, 2021 where safety protocols are in place along with extra screening methods. He commended staff for the effective and efficient manner in which the vaccine clinics were coordinated. Other updates were as follows:

- i. **Social Assistance Enhancement** – Council was informed that NFN received funding from Indigenous Services Canada in the amount of \$63,873 as temporary Income Assistance. These funds have been directed to the Food Bank to purchase additional food staples which normally not be available.
- ii. **Business Support Funding** – As a follow up to the Business Support Funding received from Indigenous Services Canada, Brendan informed Council that 20 applications were received. Another call out will be made to businesses that did not apply in this first round using the same criteria. The remaining funds will be distributed evenly across applicants in round 1 and 2. In the meantime, Council was informed that those who did apply in the 1<sup>st</sup> round will be receiving their distribution soon.

c. Health, Social & Wellness Committee Minutes of February 3 and March 3, 2021

Moved by Brian Couchie

Seconded by Jane Commanda to approve the Health, Social & Wellness Committee Minutes of February 3 and March 3, 2021 as presented.

Carried.

d. Debendaagziwaad Committee Minutes of February 18, 2021

Moved by Rick Stevens

Seconded by Michael Sawyer to approve the Debendaagziwaad Committee Minutes of February 18, 2021 as presented.

Carried.

Council was informed that a Debendaagziwaad Committee meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday, March 18, 2021. Brendan and Dwayne have reviewed Citizenship Laws from other First Nations which they will review with the committee, as well as discuss consultation processes. Councillor Rick Stevens informed Council that he will be available to participate in this meeting as well.

9. New Business:

(a) Council Resolutions Signed:

- i. MTO Road Subsidy – Council Resolution #1927 confirms that funding received from the Ministry of Transportation for municipal roads has been expended.

Moved by Brian Couchie

Seconded by Jane Commanda to approve Council Resolution #1927.

Carried.

- ii. Hydro One Agreement – Council was informed that minor capital funding was approved from Indigenous Services Canada. This included funds to extend hydro from Christine Lane, in upper Beaucage, to the Landfill Site. Council was in agreement to proceed with the signing of this agreement.

- iii. VLA Water Plant Replacement – Council was informed that Federal and Provincial funds were approved for the replacement of the water plant at VLA. This project will cost \$2,917,170.00 and NFN’s contribution would be \$194,575.24.

Moved by Brian Couchie

Seconded by Jane Commanda to approve a contribution in the amount of \$194,575.24 from Trust Income for the VLA Water Plant Replacement project.  
Carried.

Councillor Jane Commanda inquired as to whether the water plant would be located at the existing site or elsewhere, as there was some discussion about having a park area in recognition of veterans on or around that site. Brendan will follow up on this and report back to Council.

- (b) Cigarette Quota 2021-2022

Moved by Rick Stevens

Seconded by Michael Sawyer to approve Council Resolution #1928 confirming that Tobacco Road Gifts & Variety is a registered business.  
Carried.

Moved by Jane Commanda

Seconded by Rick Stevens to approve the Cigarette Quota Allocation for 2021-2022 as presented.  
Carried.

10. Standing Items:

- a. **Annuities** – Chief Scott McLeod informed Council that a very large-scale advocacy is taking place on facebook and other platforms to put pressure on Ontario to drop the appeal on the annuity claim. It appears that this matter could take place in the fall or possibly be pushed back to April 2022.
- b. **Cannabis** – Council received an update from Dwayne Nashkawa on March 9<sup>th</sup> and the draft agreement should be available at the end of the March.
- c. **Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement** – As the appeal period has passed, Council was informed that the ANGA vote in agreement is now official. Council was also informed that Chief Scott McLeod, Dwayne Nashkawa and Brendan Huston have a meeting scheduled with Dave Shawana to discuss next steps. Following this, a report will be provided to Council.

11. Adjournment:

Moved by Jane Commanda

Seconded by Rick Stevens to adjourn this meeting.  
Carried.

\*\* Meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm. \*\*

\*\* The next Council meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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