



Council Minutes

Tuesday, May 18, 2021: On Line Teams Meeting: 7:00 pm

Present:	Chief	Scott McLeod
	A/Deputy-Chief	Rick Stevens
	Councillors	Brian Couchie
		Corey Goulais
		Jane Commanda
		June Commanda
		Michael Sawyer
	Chief Executive Officer	Brendan Huston
	Recorder / Dir. Of Admin.	Freda Martel
	Moderator / Com. Coord.	Genevieve Couchie
	Facilitator	Kimberly Salvaneschi
	Dir. Land & Natural Resources	Cameron Weltch
	Forestry Coordinator	Hugh Martel
	Guests	Yvette Bellefeuille
		Alyssa McLeod
		Geraldine McLeod
		Arnold May
		Joel Gerard
		Laurie McLeod
		Anna McLeod
		Clint Couchie
		Michelle Banks
		Natasha Lariviere
		Mary Beaucage

1. Meeting commenced at 7:29 pm pm with an Opening Miigwechewin by Councillor Jane Commanda.

Chief Scott McLeod addressed the meeting participants with the protocols for the livestream meeting.

- 2, Adoption of Agenda:

Moved by Rick Stevens

Seconded by Brian Couchie to approve the Council Agenda of May 18, 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 May 18th, 2021:

Moved by Brian Couchie

Seconded by Michael Sawyer to approve the Council Minutes of May 18th, 2021 as presented.

Carried.

6. Requests / Delegations / Presentations:

(a) Healing Lodge

Natasha Lariviere submitted a letter of request to Council to start the process of a constructing a healing lodge in the community along with a petition. She provided a brief overview on her education and background and informed Council that she established the non-profit organization to assist in community outreach for individuals, where she refers to programs that could assist such as the Right Path. Her vision for this request was to start with the construction of a healing lodge which will eventually lead to the construction of a residential lodge. Council was informed that a meeting took place with Brendan Huston, Chief Executive Officer and Kimberly Lalonde, Director of Health Services and the plan is to implement NFN's outreach program and continue to work with Natasha and others to develop services to meet the needs of individuals who require assistance to meet them at a place where they may be.

(b) Collaboration 400 Years Project

Genevieve Couchie, Communications Officer submitted a briefing note to Council along with samples of work from Vanessa Tignanelli who is requesting Council to consider participating in a 400 Years Project which is a photographic documentary to share stores that are significant to Nipissing First Nation's history, current challenges and successes. Council agreed to proceed in principle with this project, and have Councillor Jane Commanda and Glenna Beaucauge, Culture & Heritage Manager meet with Ms. Tignanelli to gather more information and develop a protocol to facilitate the work.

Moved by Brian Couchie

Seconded by Michael Sawyer to approve to proceed with the 400 Years Project.

Carried.

(c) Nipissing Serenity Hospice Board Representative

A letter was submitted by Nipissing Serenity Hospice seeking an indigenous representative for the Board of Directors. In order to seek representation on this board, Council agreed with the recommendation to post this opportunity to the membership.

Moved by Jane Commanda

Seconded by Rick Stevens to post for a Board of Directors representative for Nipissing Serenity Hospice.

Carried.

(e) Bursary Donations

Letters of request for bursaries were submitted by Northern Secondary School and St. Joseph/Scollard Hall high schools.

Moved by Brian Couchie

Seconded by June Commanda to approve bursaries in the amount of \$300.00 each to Northern Secondary School and St. Joseph/Scollard Hall from the donation account.

Carried.

7. Unfinished Business From Previous Meeting(s):

None.

8. Reports:

(a) Chief's Report

I. Child Welfare Service Meeting - Chief McLeod informed Council that he attended a meeting with the Children's Aid Society of North Bay and Parry Sound District and Niijaansinaanik Child & Family Services to discuss protocols and jurisdiction in dealing with cases.

II. Algonquin Land Claim – Chief McLeod informed Council that a meeting took place with the Chief's of Ontario regarding the Algonquin of Ontario's Land Claim, to discuss overlapping boundaries into the Robinson Huron Treaty territory.

III. University Charter – Chief McLeod informed Council that he attended a meeting the Anishinabek Nation and Minister Romano, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities regarding the closing of the University of Sudbury which is affiliated with Laurentian University.

IV. Debendaagziwaad (Citizenship) Committee – Chief McLeod informed Council that he attended Chaired the Citizenship Committee meetings. He informed Council that this is an Ad Hoc committee who will continue to meet throughout the summer months; they will not pause meetings as regular advisory committees due to the upcoming Election.

V. Community Control Group – Chief McLeod attended meetings to receive regular update on covid.

VI. Outreach Community Sessions – Chief McLeod attended the Outreach Community Consultation sessions to present the proposed outreach program in the community.

VII. Anishinabek Police Service (APS) Meetings – Chief McLeod informed Council that he sits on two committees with the APS, the Finance Committee and Disciplinary Committee, and he has been attending those meetings.

VIII. North Bay District Health Unit – Chief McLeod informed Council that he has been participating in the video campaign to promote vaccinations.

IX. Chiefs of Ontario (COO) – Chief McLeod informed Council that he has attended the Lake Huron Chiefs meetings as Chair. The Chiefs of Ontario, including the Anishinabek Nation and Assembly of First Nations will all be having elections in this year. He informed Council that the current Regional Chief and National Chief are not seeking re-election. As information is received, he will forward to Council to nominate and support candidates.

X. LNHL Hockey Tournament – Chief McLeod informed Council that he attended a meeting regarding the LNHL tournament for 2022 and informed Council that at this time, it is anticipated that this tournament will proceed therefore the planning committee is continuing with plans.

XI. Algonquins of Ontario (AOO) Land Claim – Chief McLeod informed Council that a meeting took place with Lawyer David Nahwegahbow to get advice on how to process with the AOO land claim as this claim will affect Nipissing First Nation's traditional territory as well.

XII. First Nations Inuit Health Branch (FNIB) – Chief McLeod informed Council that he met with NFN staff and the Manager of FNIB concerning the First Nation Digital Health Information System to secure funding. He informed Council that FNIB has not received their budget yet therefore could not make a firm commitment for funding.

In regards to the meeting with Minister Ramano, Councillor Michael Sawyer requested to participate in future meetings. Chief McLeod informed Council that he will inform Council of future meetings as they may wish to attend as well. He also informed Council that the meetings are to discuss securing a charter to gain control of post secondary education in our territory. It seems that the current charter is outdated and needs updating in order to meet our needs.

Councillor Jane Commanda inquired about the date for the Union of Ontario's General Assembly. Chief McLeod informed Council that the assembly is scheduled for early June and he hasn't received any agendas as of yet, and once he receives the agenda he will forward to Council as they may wish to attend.

(b) Chief Executive Officer's Report

Brendan Huston, Chief Executive Officer submitted a written update to provide updates on covid-19 responses and extended work at home order to June 14th for NFN offices as well he updated on vaccinations. He also reported on the following:

- i. **Marriage Solemnization** – As a follow up to the approval of a member to carry out marriage ceremonies, NFN will appoint a Marriage Register that will track who is performing ceremonies in the community and registering these with Ontario. He informed Council that the process will be aligned with our membership department that that a decision of Chief and Council is not required at this time.
- ii. **Special Council Meeting** – Brendan informed Council that a Special Council Meeting will be required to provide updates and receive direction on various Economic and Business Development projects. A meeting will be coordinated.

Councillor Rick Stevens inquired as to the 12-17 year old population for NFN. Brendan will get this number and send to Council with along with an update on the timeframe when the pfizer vaccine is expected for this age group.

(c) Lands and By Law Committee Minutes of April 26, 2021

Moved by Jane Commanda
Seconded by Corey Goulais to approve the Lands and Bylaw Committee Minutes of April 26, 2021 as presented.
Carried.

8. New Business:

(a) Council Resolutions/Agreements Signed:

- (i) Appointment of Membership and Lands Clerk

#LNS2518

Moved by Brian Couchie
Seconded by Michael Sawyer to approve Council Resolution #LNS2518
appointing Randy McLeod as Nipissing First Nation's Membership and
Lands Clerk.
Carried.

(b) Forestry Silvicultural Proposal

Brendan Huston reviewed a Briefing Note submitted by Hugh Martel, Forestry Coordinator and Cameron Weltch, Director of Lands and Natural Resources concerning a proposal from Young Forestry Services for silvicultural work on NFN. Council was informed that this work will enhance the health of the forest. Red pine thinning would occur first and stumpage fees would be payable to Nipissing First Nation. Funding from stumpage fees will be used to re-plant these areas. The recommendation of the Natural Resources Department is to enter in an agreement with Young Forestry Services on a permit to permit basis, notify the community of the work that will be taking place and have NFN Forestry Coordinator, Hugh Martel work with a representative of Young Forestry's to mark trees and make decisions with regards to forest prescription. Council was informed that the red pine tree stands are 30-35 years old and are normally cut at the 25-30 year mark therefore it was felt that it is crucial to have this work done as soon possible.

Council agreed to proceed with this arrangement ensuring that all environmental issues are considered, and that the community is notified before any work begins.

(c) Outreach Program Design

Council was provided with the program design and budget for the proposed Outreach Program based on feedback from the community and NFN's service delivery programs. In approving the budget, Council wants to ensure that plans are in place to continue with this program and that it fit the needs of the people requiring assistance with services and these services are readily available.

Moved by Michael Sawyer
Seconded by Jane Commanda to approve the Outreach Program Design and Budget to implement an Outreach Program for NFN.
Carried.

9. Standing Items:

- (a) Annuities – Chief McLeod informed Council that the court proceedings are now completed and they will await a decision on Ontario's appeal.
- (b) Cannabis – Dwayne Nashkawa, Strategic Advisor will provide an update at the next Special Council meeting.
- (c) ANGA – The Anishinabek Nation is coordinating votes for other First Nation's, and once these are finished meetings will take place.

10. Information Items:

- (a) Pow wow Budget – Council was informed that plans are underway with the Pow wow Committee to host a virtual pow wow again this year. The budget is \$30,000. for this year and was approved with the initial budget process.

- (b) Unfinished Business Report from Previous Meeting – info item.
- (c) Manager Department Reports – info item.
- (d) Human Resource Report – info item.
- (e) Miller Update – Council was informed that there were concerns received from the last blast that took place and these are being fielded by the Lands Department. Council was informed that with reduced hours of operation, the seasons schedule will be extended. Councillor Couchie informed Council that complaints were received concerning houses shaking and he informed that in the past a former company used, it seemed like the blasts were not as loud and they got more material. Brendan will follow up with Bruce McLeod on this, as he was overseeing the quarry at that time. Brendan informed Council that Miller will be bringing in a 3rd party to monitor future blasts and the Lands Department will continue to monitor these as well.
- (f) Treaty Annuity Payment – Council was provided with a memo from the Lands Department recommending that treaty pay coincide with the Annual Meeting in November. If members wish to receive their treaty pay before this, the option is still available for them to request this directly from Indigenous Services Canada. The information is made available on the website and a notice will be sent out providing a direct mailing address for the payment of these funds.

10. Adjournment:

Moved by Brian Couchie

Seconded by Jane Commanda to adjourn this meeting.

Carried.

** Meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm **

** The next Council Meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, June 1st, 2021 at 7:30 pm **

Brendan Huston, CEO

Chief Scott McLeod