

Council Minutes

Tuesday, June 1, 2021: On-Line Virtual Meeting : 7:30 pm

Present:	Chief	Scott McLeod
	A/Deputy-Chief	Rick Stevens
	Councillors	Brian Couchie
		Jane Commanda
		June Commanda
		Michael Sawyer
	Chief Executive Officer	Brendan Huston
	Recorder/Dir. Of Admin.	Freda Martel
	Guests	Anna McLeod
		Arnold May
		Geraldine McLeod
		Lacy Farrell
		Sue Goulais
		Yvette Bellefeuille
Regrets:	Councillor	Corey Goulais

1. Meeting commenced at 7:32 pm with an Opening Miigwechewin by Councillor Michael Sawyer.

2. Adoption of Council Agenda:

 Moved by Jane Commanda
 Seconded by Brian Couchie to approve the Council Agenda of June 1, 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 18, 2021:

 Moved by Brian Couchie
 Seconded by Jane Commanda to approve the Council Minutes of May 18, 2021 as presented.
 Carried.

6. Delegations/Presentations:
 - (a) Twiggs Coffee Roaster – Sale of Alcohol

 A letter was submitted by Twiggs Coffee Roaster requesting permission to expand their business at the former Coffee Time building to include the sale of craft beer. Brendan Huston, Chief Executive Officer informed Council that the existing Business Licencing Law does not permit the sale of alcohol. Council agreed to proceed with community consultations to receive input on the changing of the existing law to permit the sale of alcohol. Brendan will coordinate a plan will proceed with consultations and will keep Council updated on the consultation efforts.

(b) Culture & Language Centre

Councillor Brian Couchie tabled a motion to have Dwayne Nashkawa develop a workplan to build a culture and language building on reserve and that this building be named after the Late Muriel Sawyer for her work in teaching the Ojibway language.

Brendan Huston informed Council that pre-planning for a Multi-Purpose Culture building that will encompass the assisted living project, as well as other community health and social services programs. It was requested that the heritage program be part of these plans as well, as there may be artifacts that will eventually be returned to NFN through our research partnerships, and we would need a space to house these.

Moved by Brian Couchie

Seconded by Rick Stevens to formalize a workplan for the construction of a Culture and Language centre.

Carried.

7. Unfinished Business From Previous Meeting(s):

None.

8. Reports:

(a) Education Committee Minutes of March 22, 2021

Moved by Jane Commanda

Seconded by Rick Stevens to approve the Education Committee Minutes of March 22, 2021 as presented.

Carried.

(b) Education Committee Minutes of April 26, 2021

Moved by Jane Commanda

Seconded by Rick Stevens to approve the Education Committee Minutes of April 26, 2021 as presented.

Carried.

9. New Business:

(a) BCR/Agreements Signed:

I. Garden Village Water Treatment – Project Approval Request #1934

Brendan informed Council that there are some minor changes to the Project Approval Request application which is being submitted to Indigenous Services Canada to formally submit the application for approval for the design budget and project overview. He informed Council that minor amendments to the document were made in consultation with NFN, Project Engineer and representatives of ISC, and requested a conditional approval to proceed with the project application.

Moved by Jane Commanda

Seconded by Michael Sawyer to approve the preliminary application to proceed with the Garden Village Water Treatment Centre project.

Carried.

Council was informed that this project will commence with a tender process this year and once a timeline has been developed, Council will be provided with an update.

II. MNRF Wildland Fire Agreement

Brendan informed Council that this is a standard agreement that is signed with First Nations to attend and be compensated for forest fires taking place on-reserve. A legal review of this agreement has been conducted with Lawyer Fred Bellefeuille. This agreement allows NFN Emergency Services Department to invoice MNRF for any forest fire costs that they respond to on-reserve. Melvin McLeod, Emergency Services Manager recommended that NFN enter into this agreement with MNRF. Council was informed that even though NFN as this agreement, residential or in-community fires within remain the priority, meaning they would be responded to first; in these cases MNRF would tend to the forest fire.

Moved by Michael Sawyer

Seconded by Jane Commanda to enter into a Wildland Fire agreement with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

Carried.

(b) HVAC Units

Brendan informed Council that due to covid the HVAC unit project was not fully completed last year and although it was budgeted for last year, that budget did not carry over therefore he requested a budget in the amount of \$128,629.00 from own source revenues to complete the project this year in accordance with the Financial Administration Law. He informed Council that this project will likely take place this fall, with a project completion date within this fiscal year. The installation of these units would only affect the older section of the Administration building and a plan will be put in place to mitigate interruptions to staff and operations during that time.

Moved by June Commanda

Seconded by Jane Commanda to approve a budget in the amount of \$128,629.00 from Trust Income for the replacement of an HVAC for the NFN Administration building.

Carried.

(c) Access Request – Township of Pedley – North Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre

Cathy McLeod, Lands Manager submitted a Briefing Note that provided information in response to the North Bay Indigenous Friendship Centres request for access using the rail bed to get to property they purchased to conduct land-based programming in Pedley Township. Council was informed that the recommendation was to approve a 3rd Party Access Agreement that will be prepared by legal counsel. As part of this agreement, they will be allowed this access at their own risk, and it would only be for those who are accessing those lands for that purpose. This does give future landowners access as they would have to seek permission from NFN. Council also wanted to ensure that users of this access permit cannot stop anyone from NFN from using this access.

Moved by Jane Commanda

Seconded by Michael Sawyer to proceed with a 3rd Party Access Agreement with the North Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre to access lands in Pedley Township for programming purposes.

Carried.

(d) Casselhome & Elders Affordable Housing Update

Brendan reviewed an update submitted by Dwayne Nashkawa, Special Projects Manager on the Elders Affordable Housing and Continuum of Care Strategy. Council was informed that due to the huge costs associated with constructing and maintaining a long-term care facility, lack of funding sources for capital due to the complexity of provincial and federal governments for Long Term Care facilities, a strategy was developed to construct 10 homes in Duchesnay and 10 homes in Garden Village where services can be provided to keep members in the community. Along with this, Kimberly Lalonde, Director of Health Services and Dwayne continue to meet with Casselhome in North Bay to develop selection policies and assignment of units in that long term care facility for indigenous members.

Chief Scott McLeod informed Council that in addition to the projects above to address elders care, the Anishinabek Nation was establishing a committee to develop a long-term care facility to serve the Anishinabek Nations needs. Brenda Restoule and Philip Goulais was part of this committee representing NFN. Chief McLeod will request an update and bring back to Council.

10. Standing Items:

(a) Annuities Claim

Chief McLeod informed Council that Phase 2 of the appeals commenced today and will continue for the next week where both sides were presenting. Council was informed that due to the Grand Council Assembly that is taking place, Chief McLeod was not able to attend the Annuity Claim hearing.

(b) Cannabis Update

Chief McLeod informed Council that nothing has been received yet from the province. Dwayne is working on the agreement to benefit on-reserve retailers which he will present this to Council when completed.

(c) ANGA Vote

Chief McLeod informed Council that he has been in contact with the Anishinabek Nation's Restoration of Jurisdiction Department to have a meeting coordinated with Council to discuss the process of moving this forward. He informed Council that he was informed that another First Nation has voted in favour of the Governance Agreement.

11. Adjournment:

Moved by Michael Restoule

Seconded by June Commanda to adjourn this meeting.

Carried.

** Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm **

** The next Council meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, June 15th, 2021 at 7:30 pm **