



Council Minutes

Tuesday, June 15, 2021: On Line Virtual: 7:30 pm

Present:	Chief	Scott McLeod
	A/Deputy-Chief	Rick Stevens
	Councillors	Jane Commanda
		June Commanda
		Michael Sawyer
	Chief Executive Officer	Brendan Huston
	Recorder/Dir. Of Admin.	Freda Martel
	Moderator	Genevieve Couchie
	Guests	Anna McLeod
		Alyssa McLeod
		Elaine Johnstone
		Geraldine McLeod
		Nathan Wright
		Susan Goulais
Regrets:	Councillor	Brian Couchie (Personal Family Matter)
		Corey Goulais

1. Meeting commenced at 7:40 pm with an Opening Miigwechiwin by Councillor Jane Commanda.

2. Adoption of Agenda:

Moved by Jane Commanda
Seconded by Rick Stevens to approve the Council Agenda of June 15th, 2021 as presented.
Carried.

3. Disclosures of Conflict:

None.

4. Council Travel:

Due to Covid-19 travel is not permitted at this time.

5. Adoption of Council Minutes of June 1, 2021:

Moved by Michael Sawyer
Seconded by Jane Commanda to approve the Council Minutes of June 1, 2021 as presented.
Carried.

6. Delegations/Presentations:

(a) Ontario Regional Chief Candidates Address to Council

Elaine Johnson and Nathan Wright who are seeking candidacy for the Ontario Regional Chief presented their election platforms to Chief and Council.

Chief Scott McLeod and Council requested that Council remain on line following the regular meeting to provide direction on the vote for Regional Chief of Ontario.

(b) B.I.K.E. Cycling / Residential School

A request was submitted by Connie Houget advising Council of a cycling event in honour of the 215 and residential school survivors. She requested permission to cycle on NFN lands off Main Street West in North Bay. Brendan informed Council that the Ad Hoc Committee who coordinated the ceremonies in Garden Village and Duchesnay in honour of the 215 children provided the following recommendations to support this initiative:

- Donation of funds to purchase gifts for residential school survivors.
- Visit memorial in Duchesnay or Garden Village.
- Recognition and acknowledge of NFN and territory.
- Invite NFN members to participate in cycling.

Moved by Jane Commanda

Seconded by Rick Stevens to approve this request and that they be greeted at one of the Residential School Memorials.

Carried.

It was also suggested that arrangements be made to have someone from our community at the site to provide Education on residential schools.

7. Reports:

(a) Chief's Report

- i. **Anishnabek Nation Meeting** - Chief McLeod informed Council that he attended meeting with the Anishinabek Nation Chiefs Committee on Governance.
- ii. **Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)** - Chief McLeod informed Council that he has been attending meetings with ISC to receive weekly Covid-19 updates.
- iii. **Debendaagziwaad Committee** – Chief McLeod informed Council that he has been chairing the Debendaagziwaad (Citizenship) Committee meetings. These meeting will continue throughout the summer so as not to put these discussions on hold. A meeting was held late May and another meeting is planned for June 24.
- iv. **Anishinabek Leadership Council** – Chief McLeod informed Council that he had his last meeting as Chair for the Anishinabek Leadership Council and informed Council that as he has stepped down from that role, he welcomed Chief Travis Boissonneault as Chairperson.
- v. **Anishinabek Grand Council Assembly** – Chief McLeod informed Council that he has attended Grand Council Assembly on June 1 – 3, 2021. The election has taken place and the Anishinabek Grand Council Chief is Reginald Niganobe and Deputy-Grand Council Chief Lake Huron is Travis Boissoneau.
- vi. **Child Youth and Family Well Being** - Chief McLeod informed Council that he attended a meeting where the Child Youth and Family Well-Being agreement was signed in principle.
- vii. **Ontario First Nation Limited Partnership (OFNLP)** - Chief McLeod informed Council that he attended the OFNLP annual meeting. Due to the impacts of Covid-19 with the closure of the casinos there is a 40% reduction in gaming revenues.

- viii. **Algonquins of Ontario (AOO)** - Chief McLeod informed Council that he has attended meetings regarding the AOO land claim concerning traditional territories. Details of this are not made public as this time so as not to jeopardize legal actions.
- ix. **Robinson Huron Waawiindamaagewin** – Chief McLeod informed Council that this is a newly formed working group that addresses the Robinson Huron Treaty of 1850; 21 First Nations are members to this group.
- x. **Chiefs of Ontario (COO) Assembly** – Chief McLeod informed Council that he is attending the COO Assembly and as with other PTO's, an election process is taking place tomorrow.

An inquiry was made regarding revenues from on-line gaming. Council was informed that this was being discussed with Ontario, as the position of the province is that on-line gaming is not part of the agreement; this may have to go through a legal process. Chief McLeod also informed Council that the money that was set aside by OFNLP has not been expended.

(b) Chief Executive Officer's Report

Brendan Huston, Chief Executive Officer provided a written report to Council that addressed the following:

- i. **Vaccine update** - Brendan informed Council that 2928 moderna vaccines have been administered by NFN nurses, and a total of 35 clinics had been scheduled at Nipissing. The vaccination of youth took place on June 8, 9 and 10; 86 youth between the ages of 12 to 17 years of age received the pfizer vaccine. Clinics will continue.
- ii. **Covid update** - Brendan provided Council with an overview of the roadmap to re-open under Step 1 and was informed that staff returned to office effective Monday, June 14. Positive cases in Yellek are contained and did not result in an outbreak status. The Community Control Group met on Monday and recommended that Pandemic Pay that is provided to eligible employees per the NFN Pandemic Pay Policy be extended to August 22, 2021 at midnight. He commended the Health Team and volunteers on the work they have done in keeping the community safe.
- iii. **Indigenous Peoples Day** - Brendan informed Council that this year virtual events will take place on June 21, 2021. He informed Council that that staff will be encouraged to attend participate in the events, but it will not be mandatory for staff to attend but rather this year, with covid fatigue and the ongoing pandemic, staff will be provided the to celebrate Indigenous Day with their family and friends in a safe way. Next year Indigenous Day Celebration will go back to its regular format.
- iv. **CENGN** – Brendan informed Council that a press release and virtual announcement is scheduled for August 17th at 11:00 am. He invited those in attendance at the meeting people to listen to this exciting press release, which is a positive announcement for our community.
- v. **One on One Debriefing** - Brendan informed Council that he would like to schedule one on one meetings with Council to get feedback that will assist us in preparing for the next Council term.

- vi. **Special Council Meeting** - Brendan informed Council that a Special Council meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 22 where Dwayne Nashkawa, Strategic Advisor will update Council on some Economic Development initiatives.

Councillor Jane Commanda informed Council that the Culture & Pow Wow Committee continues to meet to plan the virtual pow wow.

8. New Business:

(a) Council Resolutions/Agreements Signed:

(i) CMHC Loan Renewal

Shawn Anderson, Housing Manager provided a Briefing Note on a CMHC Section 95 Project Phase 3 for Units on Goulais Crescent and Couchie Memorial Drive which were built in 2006.

Moved by June Commanda

Seconded by Jane Commanda to approve the loan renewal agreement CMHC Account#16-134-983-002 Phase 3.

Carried.

(ii) Water Class Action Suit #1933

Brendan informed Council that put forth analysis to option in on drinking water class action suit, and a legal opinion was received and there were no issues with NFN signing this agreement.

Moved by Michael Sawyer

Seconded by Rick Stevens to approve BCR #1933 and proceed with signing the retainer agreement.

Carried.

(b) Nipissing Serenity House Representative

Deferred.

(c) Group Insurance Rate

Council was provided with a Briefing Note advising of the re-set rate at 9.3% for Group Insurance Rates with Manulife.

(d) Native Peoples of Nipissing Housing Corporation (NPNHC)

Dwayne Nashkawa submitted a Briefing Note regarding a joint proposal for a housing development with NPNHC that will be constructed in North Bay. They are seeking a \$100,000.00 commitment from NFN with a guarantee that 50 of these units will be available for NFN debendaagziwaad. Brendan informed Council that there has been no agreement signed as of yet, this is a proposal is in the beginning stages and other capital funds need to be secured prior to the project proceeding.

Moved by Michael Sawyer

Seconded by Jane Commanda to approve to support a partnership agreement with NPNHC for a housing development and to participate on the Steering Committee.

Carried.

Brendan will forward the documents that were linked to the Briefing Note to Council for their information.

(e) Mikawaashi Cannabis Retail Store Business License Application

Chief Scott McLeod declared conflict and left meeting.

Ken Hazell, Economic Development Officer provided a memo to Council regarding a members request to submit an application for a Cannabis Retail Store – Mikawaashi. Council was informed that a notice was sent out to the community and area residents of the business which would be located in VLA were contacted and no objections were received. It is the recommendation of the Business Licencing Committee to support the members application for a Retail Operators License with the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario.

Moved by Jane Commanda

Seconded by Michael Sawyer to support the application of Mikawaashi to obtain a cannabis retail license.

Carried.

Brendan will confirm with Council that this business is being located on a property that is designated as commercial.

9. Standing Items:

- (a) Annuities Claim - No update currently.
- (b) Cannabis Agreement - Dwayne will provide an update at the Special Council meeting of June 22, 2021.
- (c) Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement - No update currently. Chief McLeod informed Council that he anticipates meetings will commence after the election.

10. Adjournment:

Moved by Jane Commanda

Seconded by Rick Stevens to adjourn this meeting.

Carried.

** Meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm **

** The next Council meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, July 6th, 2021 at 7:30 pm **