



Council Minutes
Waabagaa Giizis, Niizh-giizhgat 7, 2021
Tuesday, September 21, 2021: On-Line Meeting: 7:00 pm

Present:	Chief	Scott McLeod
	Deputy-Chief	Michael Sawyer
	Councillors	Daniel Stevens
		Jane Commanda
		Joan McLeod
		June Commanda
		Rick Stevens
		Tyler Commanda
	Chief Executive Officer	Brendan Huston
	Recorder/Dir of Admin	Freda Martel
	Moderator	Kimberly Salveneschi
	Receptionist/Clerk	Julie Lambert
	Guests	Alyssa McLeod

Anna McLeod
Arnold May
Geraldine McLeod
Joanna Gibouleau
Susan Robson
Tracey Laroche
Yvette Bellefeuille

1. Meeting commenced at 7:30 pm with an Opening Miigwechiiwin by Councillor June Commanda.

2. Adoption of Agenda:

Moved by June Commanda

Seconded by Jane Commanda to approve the Council Agenda of September 22, 2021 as presented.

Carried.

3. Disclosures of Conflict:

None.

4. Council Travel:

Council provided updates of their travel that will occur prior to the next Council meeting.

5. Adoption of Council Minutes of September 7, 2021:

Moved by Daniel Stevens

Seconded by Joan McLeod to approve the Council Minutes of September 7, 2021.

Carried.

6. Delegations / Presentations:

(a) Daycare Building / Former Duchesnay Community Hall

A letter was submitted by a member requesting that the building at 530 Couchie Memorial Drive be returned back to the community of Duchesnay to re-establish a women's group who would take ownership of the building and be responsible for the operations and maintenance.

Council was provided with a Briefing Note with background information on the construction of this building as well as the current use of the building. Council was also informed that land in Duchesnay is limited, and this was a potential site that may have been considered for future development. This matter will be referred to the Core Community Planning Committee to have an assessment on the building conducted as well as provide a recommendation to Council.

7. Unfinished Business From Last Meeting(s):

(a) Waiving of Rental Rates

As follow up from the last Council meeting, Brendan Huston, Chief Executive Officer reviewed a Briefing Note with Council that provided additional information for a request to waive the rental rates for the gym in Garden Village. Council was informed that besides the collection of insurance costs for students, 3 Fires Martial Arts Academy will charge a nominal fee and the intention was to provide this training once per week, classes would be open to new participants and members of the academy. In accordance with the Donation Policy where hall rental donations are approved, this request does not fit under that policy therefore a hall rental fee would need to be charged and due to covid, buildings are not open to the public. Council requested that this be referred to the Recreation Program to contact the member to discuss possible options to have the martial arts programming available in our community for our members and stressed the importance of being able to provide healthy programming such as this in our community for our members; a variety of programming for our youth should be considered.

8. Reports:

(a) Chief's Report

Police Governing Authority (PGA) – Chief McLeod informed Council that he attended the Anishinabek Police Services (APS) PGA Board meeting and the Police Chiefs Committee for the Annual General Meeting in Sault Ste. Marie. The Waawiindamaagewin Robinson Huron 1850 working group meeting also took place to discuss the treaty gathering for next year. He informed Council that if was suggested that the next gathering be hosted by Nipissing First Nation. Chief McLeod will be meeting with the Brendan Huston and Freda Martel and other staff to see if this is something that could be hosted here for next year and will come back to Council to seek approval.

Duchesnay Bridge – Chief McLeod informed Council that he attended the opening for the bridge in Duchesnay.

Nipissing University – Chief McLeod attended a meeting with Dr. Kevin Wamsley, President of Nipissing University, with Deputy-Chief Michael Sawyer, Brendan Huston and Fran Couchie to discuss NFN's relationship with Nipissing University.

Restorative Justice Circle – Chief McLeod informed Council that he was invited to sit on a Restorative Justice Circle at another Nation, as the infraction actually took place on NFN's territory. He informed Council that the circle was facilitated by an Elder who sentenced the individuals to provide traditional corn from their territory and training on how to lay corn as it is not available in our territory. The reasoning behind this was because moose was not available in their territory, this is why they came here to harvest but did so without permission. As part of the Restorative Justice sentence, Chief McLeod requested that they bring tobacco when they come as they did not lay tobacco down when they harvested the moose. Council was informed that Jeff McLeod, Natural Resources Manager and Cameron Welch, Director of Lands and Natural Resources will oversee and coordinate any follow up on behalf of NFN.

Robinson Huron Treaty Meeting – Chief McLeod informed Council that he attended at meeting at Bawtong in Sault Ste. Marie, where they were provided a brief update on the Annuities Claim, the status being that they are working at getting Ontario to the table to negotiate a settlement.

First Nation Forum on Policy – Chief McLeod informed Council that he attended a First Nation Forum on Policy meeting with Dwayne Nashkawa, Special Strategic Advisor. They met with the Ministry of Attorney General's office to discuss some of the issues that First Nation's are faced with in regard to policing and discussion took place regarding the funding models under the Community Safety and Police Act, as this might be a consideration to get adequate police compliment and more equipment. Dwayne will be working on a document to assess the pros and cons.

Lake Nipissing Steering Committee – Chief McLeod informed Council that he attended a meeting with the Ministry of Natural Resources to discuss the fish and compliance issues and the FWIN data report, as well discussions took place regarding the impacts of global warming and the impacts and concerns that may come about.

Chief of Ontario (COO) Meeting – Chief McLeod informed Council that he worked on a Chief's Working Group that was instrumental in eliminating the delivery charges on Hydro One accounts for NFN resident homes on reserve. They will be continuing pushing forward the effort to eliminate the deliver charges for on-reserve commercial/capital buildings as well as off-reserve NFN member homes.

Mining and Exploration Community Consultation – Chief McLeod also informed Council that he attended the Mining and Exploration Community Consultation that took place prior to this meeting.

(b) Chief Executive Officer's Report

Brendan Huston submitted a written update to address the following:

Covid-19 Update – Council was updated on the number of vaccines that were administered by the NFN Health Services department to date along with the number of clinics that took place. They were also informed that the vaccine for children is pending Health Canada approval. The vaccinations given have been entered into the Provincial system. We are currently in Step 3 of the Re-opening plan and in the 4th wave of Covid-19. Council was informed that 4 new cases were reporting in NFN since September 11th with 2 cases being resolved as of tonight and 2 will remain in active status. The high-risk exposures were linked to students transported by Nbsiing Bus Lines which lead to over 55 assessments for high-risk exposure.

Community Wellness Initiatives – Council was informed that staff recruitment has been taking place and the implementation of this Outreach program will be underway. Community Healing Circles have taken place with another scheduled for September 29th. He informed Council that travel is being made available for those community members who wish to attend. An evaluation of these sessions will be conducted.

Community Mobilization Strategy – Council was informed that technical staff have been working on the terms of reference and workplans for the advisory committees, and they will be in contact with the Council portfolio holder to review and discuss. Once this has taken place and the Terms of Reference approved by Council, a recruitment for committee members will take place.

Staff Appreciation Day – Council was informed that due to Covid-19 and uncertainty with the new variant, a decision was made to show appreciation to staff in two separate ways; one being having draws for staff on September 24th and the second will be planned by an internal committee with the Bernadette Goulais Award and Nishnaabemwin Award presentations.

(c) Special Council Minutes of August 29, 2021

Moved by Michael Sawyer

Seconded by Jane Commanda to approve the Special Council Minutes of August 29th, 2021 as presented.

Carried.

9. **New Business:**

(a) BCR's Signed:

Moved by Tyeler Commanda

Seconded by Jane Commanda to approve Council Resolutions for Land Allotments LNS2520 for Lot 230 Garden Village, LNS2522 for Lot 128 Yellek, LNS2523 for Lot 136 Yellek, LNS2524 for Lot 141 Yellek and LNS2525 for Lot 110 Yellek.

Carried.

Moved by Jane Commanda

Seconded by Daniel Stevens to approve Council Resolution for LNS2521 for Lot 156 Garden Village.

Carried.

Councillor Rick Stevens declared conflict for Resolution #LNS2521.

(b) Truth & Reconciliation – Day of Observance

Council was provided with an update on a community walk to be hosted by NFN in observance of Truth & Reconciliation Day that included a proposed budget for this day.

Moved by Joan McLeod

Seconded by Jane Commanda to approve a budget in the amount of \$13,000.00 from the band revenue funding for Truth & Reconciliation Day of Observance.

Carried.

(c) Bus Purchase

Nancy Allaire, Director of Education submitted a request to purchase a 70-passenger bus and three quotes were requested.

Moved by Rick Stevens

Seconded by Michael Sawyer to approve the purchase of a 71-passenger bus in the amount of \$104,588.00 plus shipping from Thomas-Premiere Bus Group from surplus funds.

Carried.

(d) Vaccination Status Disclosure Policy

Brendan informed Council the proposed Vaccination Status Disclosure Policy does not mandate people to get vaccinated but sets out procedures and guidelines to follow for fully vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. He informed Council that this policy has been reviewed by the Community Control Group and an Employment Lawyer to ensure compliance with Employment Law. This policy is put in place to ensure that NFN maintains a healthy and safe environment for staff and students.

An inquiry was made in regard to the risk to children from staff who are not vaccinated. Council was informed that unvaccinated staff who are working in these high-risk settings will be required to get Covid testing twice per week and at least 48 hours between tests. Brendan informed Council that previous Council supported a motion that any changes to Covid policies could be approved by the Chief Executive Officer but due to the nature of this policy and this being a new policy, the request is to have this Council formally approved by Council.

Moved by June Commanda

Seconded by Rick Stevens to approve the Vaccination Status Disclosure Policy.

Carried.

(e) Salary & Honourarium – 2021-2024

As an information item for Council, Brendan provided a Briefing Note informing Council of the Chief salary and Council honourarium schedule for the term effective August 1, 2021 to August 1, 2023. He informed Council that the salary schedule will not be reviewed again until 2023 where this Council will be required to approve the salary schedule for the next in-coming Council.

(f) Committee Terms of Reference

Council was provided with a draft Terms of Reference for their information.

(g) Council Orientation & Planning Session Meeting Dates

Council agreed to schedule orientation meetings with department Directors and Managers on October 4, 7, 12 and 14. These meetings will commence at 6:00 pm. It was agreed that the Council Planning Session will take place the weekend of October 23 & 24, 2021.

(h) Landfill Site Tipping Fees

Grant Stevens, NFN Waste Diversion Coordinator submitted a Briefing Note with recommendations to amend the Landfill Site User Fees for non member residents and add fees for the disposal of mattresses at a fee of \$17.00 and bulk items (ie: boats, trailers and hot tubs, etc) at a fee of \$50.00 and increase the freon removal fee from \$20 to \$25.

Moved by Tyeler Commanda

Seconded by Jane Commanda to approve the Tipping Fee Schedule.

Carried.

(i) Landfill Site Business Fee

Grant Stevens submitted a Briefing Note with a recommendation to apply an annual Waste Fee to NFN member businesses for curbside pick-up. As there are different types of businesses, ones that will create more waste than others, an addition to Option #2 was suggested and approved by Council, where for the 1st year of implementation, all NFN band member businesses will be required to pay an Annual Waste Fee of \$125.00. Over the course of the year, an evaluation will be made on the volume of garbage each business is creating and next year the Annual Waste Fee will be amended to have two categories, a High Waste Fee and Low Waste Fee schedule.

Moved by Jane Commanda

Seconded by Michael Sawyer to approve Option #2 and apply a \$125.00 waste fee for NFN member businesses for curbside pickup and evaluate the volume of garbage for each business over the year.

Carried.

10. Standing Items:

(a) **Annuities Claim Update** – Chief McLeod informed Council that a campaign is underway to get Ontario to negotiate rather than going to the court to have the matter appealed.

(b) **Cannabis** – No updated.

(c) **ANGA Implementation** – Council was informed that NFN has been asked to provide technical representatives to work on an Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement working group to provide input into the design for implementation. Chief McLeod informed Council that Dwayne Nashkawa will be representing NFN on this working committee and Brendan Huston will be the alternate representative.

11. Adjournment:

Moved by Rick Stevens

Seconded by Jane Commanda to adjourn this meeting.

Carried.

** Meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm **

** The next Council meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, October 5th, 2021 at 7:30 pm. **