



Council Minutes

Tuesday, February 16, 2021: On-Line Teams Meeting: 7:00 pm

---

---

Present:	Chief	Scott McLeod
	Councillors	Brian Couchie
		Corey Goulais
		Jane Commanda
		June Commanda
		Mike Sawyer
		Rick Stevens
	Chief Executive Officer	Brendan Huston
	Recorder/Dir. Of Admin.	Freda Martel

---

---

1. Meeting commenced at 7:19 pm.

2. Adoption of Agenda:

Councillor Rick Stevens informed Council that he received a call inquiring as to whether guard rails could be installed, or the bend could be straightened on the Beaucage Park Road. Brendan Huston Chief Executive Officer will follow up on this request.

Moved by Brian Couchie

Seconded by Rick Stevens to approve the Council Agenda of February 16, 2021 as presented.

Carried.

3. Disclosures of Conflict:

None.

4. Council Travel:

None.

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

Item #9(c) Addition to read: "The use of the Traditional Grounds where the pow wow was usually held, will be referred to the Culture & Heritage Committee who will bring recommendations to Council on the future use of this land, as well as a longer-term plan for the location of future pow wows."

Moved by Brian Couchie

Seconded by Jane Commanda to approve the Council Minutes of February 2, 2021 as amended.

Carried.

6. Delegations / Presentations:

None.

7. Unfinished Business from Last Meeting:

(a) Little Lakes Road

Brendan Huston informed Council that Patrick Stevens, Director of Community Infrastructure reported that the gate at Little Lakes Road is not locked. When it is locked later, band members will be able to use the same key that is used on the gate at Mukwa Miikan Road for entry. Councillor Rick Stevens informed Council that he was informed that the gate that is installed on Little Lakes Road is not wide enough should a fire truck need to access that area. Brendan Huston will follow up on this and report back to Council.

8. Reports:

(a) Chiefs Report:

- i. **Police Governing Authority (PGA)** - Chief McLeod informed Council that he has attended the Finance & Disciplinary Committee meetings since January with the Police Governing Authority.
- ii. **National Fisheries Meeting** – Chief McLeod informed Council that he attended a National Fisheries Meeting with the Assembly of First Nations (AFN).
- iii. **Robinson Huron Chiefs Meeting** – Chief McLeod informed Council that he attended the Robinson Huron Chiefs meeting where preliminary discussion concerning the Algonquins treaty boundaries were discussed as this would have implications on the Annuities Case. It was agreed in a non-binding agreement, that the lines that they referred to in their boundary claim will be used, as it captures all the communities referred to in the Annuities Case.
- iv. **Anishinabek Leadership Council** – Chief McLeod informed Council that he and Dwayne Nashkawa, Special Advisor, attended a meeting with the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) to discuss upcoming work on Laronde Creek, and NFN's is intending to be involved with ongoing meetings in order to keep communications open.
- v. **Internal Meetings** – Chief McLeod informed Council that meetings have taken place with NFN's Lands Department regarding the Algonquins of Ontario Lands Claim and its which affects our traditional territory. Meetings will continue to address concerns.
- vi. **Chiefs of Ontario (COO)** - Chief McLeod informed Council that he attended the Special Chiefs Assembly the 1<sup>st</sup> week in February.
- vii. **Anishinabek Nation Chiefs Committee** - Chief McLeod informed Council that he has been working with the Chiefs Committee on Governance and participated in the Governance Summit that addressed the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement. Council was also informed that he and Dwayne met with representatives of the Anishinabek Nation to update them on NFN's discussions with the Ministry of Attorney General's office regarding jurisdiction in regard to cannabis.
- viii. **Anishinabek Nation Lands and Resources** – Chief McLeod informed Council that he will be attending the Anishinabek Nation Lands and Resource sessions that are taking place on February 17<sup>th</sup>. He invited Council to participate in these sessions if they wished.

(b) Chief Executive Officer's Report

Brendan Huston, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) submitted and reviewed a written report with Council that addressed the following:

- i. **Covid-19** – Council was informed that the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit remains in shutdown and stay-at-home orders until February 22<sup>nd</sup> due to the increased number of Covid-19 cases associated with the outbreak in an apartment building in North Bay, in which 1 case was confirmed to be of the South African variant, that is more highly transmittable than the original Covid-19 virus. He informed Council that the NFN’s Community Control Group meet and made the following recommendations for Council’s consideration:
- That the work from home measure be extended to March 8<sup>th</sup>.
  - Temporary pandemic pay remain in effect to March 8<sup>th</sup>.
  - If the district order is lifted on March 8<sup>th</sup> making the Garden Village outdoor rink eligible to re-open, the capacity limit will be 25 on the ice surface with the same rink schedule being used prior to the shutdown. However, if the district is classified as a green or yellow zone the scheduling tool will be used.
  - Nbsiing Secondary School will remain on virtual state and return to in-person learning on March 8<sup>th</sup>.
  - The after-school program will be reinstated on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

He informed Council that in addition to the rationale provided in the report, staff have had Office 365 training to support their work from home.

Council agreed with the recommendations. Councillor Rick Stevens expressed concern with regards to the mental health of the children with not having the outdoor rink open, as having this available to them will assist them during this time.

- ii. **Vaccine Update** – Council was informed that everything went well with the vaccine distribution that took place last week. NFN received the Moderna vaccine, and this was administered to residents of the Seniors Apartment Unit and staff who work closely with vulnerable clients. The Health Department is expecting another shipment of the vaccine in early March.
- iii. **Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement (ANGA)** - Brendan Huston informed Council that videos in support of the ANGA were recorded with Councillor Rick Stevens, Councillor Brian Couchie and Bob Goulais, two of which have been released and another one that will be released in the upcoming days. He invited anyone else who wished to prepare a video to contact Genevieve Couchie, Communications Officer.
- iv. **Outreach Program** – Brendan Huston informed Council that the initial design for the proposed Outreach Program is near completion. Once the Social Core Group reviews the final draft prepared by Consultant Beverly Bourget, this will be brought to Council prior to community engagements to address wellness and social challenges that are being planned for the end of March.
- (c) **Special Council Minutes of January 5, 2021**
- Moved by Brian Couchie  
Seconded by June Commanda to approve the Special Council Minutes of January 5, 2021 as presented.  
Carried.
- (d) **Kinoomaagewin Aanke Giigdownin (Education Committee) Minutes of December 7, 2020 and February 1, 2021**
- Moved by Michael Sawyer  
Seconded by Brian Couchie to approve the Kinoomaagewin Aanke Giigdownin (Education Committee) Minutes of December 7, 2020 and February 1, 2021 as presented.  
Carried.

9. **New Business:**

(a) **BCR's Signed:**

Patrick Stevens submitted a Briefing Note to request support on a proposal to Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) minor capital fund in the amount of \$80K to conduct a proper assessment on the Jocko Point Bridge. Due to some of the concerns with the existing structure, Council was informed that load limits may be imposed. Council approved resolution #1924 for signing:

Moved by Jane Commanda

Seconded by Corey Goulais to approve the signing of Council Resolution #1924.

Carried.

(b) **NFN Custom Election Code Amendments – Ratification Report**

Moved by Jane Commanda

Seconded by Michael Sawyer to approve the Ratification Officer's Report and approve the amendments to Nipissing First Nation's Custom Election Regulations.

Carried.

(c) **Radio Station:**

Council was provided with a Briefing Note that outlined an analysis for a community radio station with the following options should Council wish to proceed with this project:

- Option #1 was to proceed with the developmental work which included establishing a community radio station working group, hiring a Communications or Broadcast Media Consultant, and distributing an expression of interest. Approximate costs \$20K-\$30k.
- Option #2 – to proceed with developmental work expressed in Option #1 but establishing a community-based committee to provide oversight and hire a Coordinator rather than a Consultant to complete the work. Approximate costs \$35K to \$70K.
- Option #3 – not to proceed with developmental work.

Council agreed to proceed with Option #1. Brendan informed Council that this process will take approximately 6 months to 1 year. Operational costs for this project once developed would range between \$100K to \$120K per year. Councillor Michael Sawyer inquired as to whether the project to expand internet services on NFN could be linked with the radio station project. Brendan will follow up with Bob Goulais to see if this is a possibility, as well to see if he would consider working on this project with NFN.

Moved by Jane Commanda

Seconded by Brian Couchie to proceed with the development of a proposal for a community radio station for Nipissing First Nation.

Carried.

(d) **Committee Re-Assignments**

With the passing of Muriel Sawyer, former Deputy-Chief, Chief Scott McLeod informed Council that there is a need to address the Deputy-Chief seat on the Finance & Audit

Committee and 2013 Boundary Claim Trust Board. He informed Council that Councillor Rick Stevens, being the next Council member in terms of votes, is willing to take on these roles for the remainder of the term as A/Deputy-Chief.

In regard to the Education Committee, Councillor Michael Sawyer offered to step into the Chairperson role for the remainder of the term. Chief Scott McLeod informed Council that he will review the Council portfolios and bring this back to Council, as adjustments may have to be made for Councillor Sawyer's other portfolios.

Moved by Brian Couchie

Seconded by Jane Commanda to appoint Councillor Rick Stevens as Acting Deputy-Chief effective immediately to July 31, 2021.

Carried.

*Councillor Rick Stevens abstained.*

(e) **March Break – Nipissing Day**

Kimberly Salvaneschi, Executive Assistant provided a Briefing Note concerning the rescheduling of the March Break and revised date for Nipissing Day. As the March Break is postponed until April 12-16 for this year, the recommendation would be to move Nipissing Day which is the first Monday of the March Break to April 12<sup>th</sup>. In regard to, Nipissing Secondary School staff, Nipissing Day would move to April 19<sup>th</sup> to coincide with the school calendar.

Moved by June Commanda

Seconded by Rick Stevens to reschedule Nipissing Day to April 12<sup>th</sup> for NFN offices and April 19<sup>th</sup> for Nipissing Secondary School.

Carried.

10. **Standing Items:**

- i. **Annuities Claim** – No update.
- ii. **Cannabis** – No update. Dwayne Nashkawa will provide an update for the next Council meeting.
- iii. **Staff Updates** – Jennifer Lalonde, Human Resources Manager provided an update on staff recruitments, new hires, and staff departures. Brendan informed Council that future updates will include Directors/Managers on extended leaves.
- iv. **ANGA Vote** – Summits are under way and videos are being released.

11. **Information Items:**

Chief Scott McLeod reviewed two thank you notes to Council from members concerning gift card for seniors, as well as a note commending NFN on the Financial Statements. This note will be shared with the Finance Department.

12. **Land Claim:**

Councillor Rick Stevens informed Council that the Algonquin land claim is a provincial issue and not a federal. Chief McLeod informed Council that he has been working with a small committee consisting of Dwayne Nashkawa, Cameron Welch and Brennan Huston to investigate and address NFN concerns. As well, in his discussion with the Chief's they are aware that NFN has taken the lead and are in support of this. The decision with regards to the informal acceptance of their boundary was for the Annuities Claim to expedite the case; the Algonquins boundary claim is being treated differently when addressing the annuities claim or Land Claim as each has will have different impacts.

Councillor Jane Commanda inquired as to whether the Union of Ontario Indians or Temagami First Nation is in the claim. Chief McLeod informed Council that they are not involved. Once a position paper is developed on the Algonquins of Ontario Claim a report will be presented to Council.

13. Adjournment:

Moved by Jane Commanda  
Seconded by Michael Sawyer to adjourn this meeting.  
Carried.

**\*\* Meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm. \*\***

**\*\* The next Council meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 at 7:00 pm. \*\***