

ACADIA FIRST NATION
CHIEF AND COUNCIL MEETING
BRIDGEWATER BEST WESTERN
FEBRUARY 11, 2014
PUBLIC MINUTES

PRESENT:

CHIEF DEBORAH ROBINSON

COUNCILLOR DEBRA WENTZELL

COUNCILLOR ANDREW FRANCIS

COUNCILLOR TOM PICTOU

COUNCILLOR CHARMAINE STEVENS

COUNCILLOR MIKE PAUL

REGRETS: COUNCILLOR JEFF PURDY

COUNCILLOR DARLENE COULTON

OPENING PRAYER: DEBRA WENTZELL

January 28, 2014, minutes reviewed. Motion by Councillor Charmaine Stevens to accept the minutes was seconded by Councillor Mike Paul. All in favour – minutes approved.

Presentation by Darlene Copeland and Diane Christmas on the “Walking the Prevention Circle” training presented through the Red Cross. The “Walking the Prevention Circle” training is provided to Councils and staff on how to properly handle child abuse disclosures that may occur. The training can be 1, 2 or 3 days in length. Decision was made to support this initiative and Darlene is to coordinate the training with the various AFN offices.

Darlene Copeland also affirmed that they were participating in the “GirlPower” program being undertaken in the Yarmouth reserve on March 12th.

Red Cross also provides anti-bullying training and has been approved for funding to provide a “Train the Trainer” course for persons wanting to deliver the anti-bullying course. Offer was provided to deliver the training for the AFN. Band Manager to coordinate this opportunity with Darlene.

Presentation by Paul Coughlin, RCMP Chester, was given on the annual RCMP report for the Gold River Reserve. The report was provided in hard copy to the Chief and Council and is available for review as may be required at the band office.

Discussion on the status of a person living on-reserve was discussed. A letter to be again provided to the person informing them that they are not permitted to be on reserve as decided by the community and Council.

Discussion was held regarding the DFO Friendship Camp. DFO had proposed to hold a four day camp with three members from Acadia, Bear River, Annapolis Valley, Glooscap, Shubenacadie and Millbrook First Nations. The camp will focus on fisheries and related environmental aspects and is intended to provide the participants with greater learning and exposure to fisheries while building stronger relationships between the communities.

A band member request to have an appliance replaced was denied as the policy is for band members to replace their own appliances after the band provides the initial one.

There was discussion on an issue with a band member having conducted themselves as a representative of the AFN. As this person was not authorized to act for or on behalf of the AFN the issue is to be followed up on by the Band Manager. A letter to be prepared to the party involved following the incident being reviewed.

A discussion was held with respect to the AFN Entertainment Center operations. The Bingo and VLT operations are in need of additional staff. A hiring committee is to be established from Yarmouth resources so as to reduce costs of the interview process. At least three new staff are to be hired. The AFN Bingo is continuing to build up its customer base and operations are to be continually monitored to determine if additional bingo offerings should be implemented.

The AFN Entertainment Center is to install commercial toilets in the public washrooms if the current issues cannot be addressed otherwise.

The Band Manager is to arrange to have cheques delivered to future Chief and Council meetings. Pay cheques to be dated for the Friday if the date of the cheque would normally be on a weekend. This practice is to occur for all future pay cheques with the exception being for the March 31st year-end.

Penny Pennell requested an opportunity to meet the Chief and Council at a future meeting. Arrangements to be made as may be convenient.

A request for March Break funding for the Youth Program was referred to the REC Committee for decision.

A band member request for a shed was denied.

A band member request for materials for a deck and railings was approved.

A band member request to have material provided to build rooms in the basement was referred to Jim Pictou to review to determine if the rooms would be in compliance with National Building Code requirements. If the rooms are not NBC compliant the request is to be denied.

A discussion was held regarding REC budgets for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. Decision made to have the budgets remain stay at the levels approved for the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

The AFN wishes to begin a process of reducing paper usage. As such the AFN will be converting to an electronic distribution of community newsletters as a start to this initiative.

There will be no community summer maintenance services provided this fiscal year as had occurred in the past.

The profit sharing forms are to be sorted and provided to the various service offices so that their address lists can be updated to reflect the information provided by the members thereby increasing and improving the effectiveness of communications.

A follow up inquiry is to be made to Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada on access to program related files and informations. Band Manager to report back when the clarification is provided.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: Halifax February 25, 2014