

ACADIA FIRST NATION
CHIEF AND COUNCIL MEETING
BRIDGEWATER BEST WESTERN

MAY 13, 2014

PUBLIC MINUTES

PRESENT:

CHIEF DEBORAH ROBINSON

COUNCILLOR DEBRA WENTZELL

COUNCILLOR ANDREW FRANCIS

COUNCILLOR TOM PICTOU

COUNCILLOR MIKE PAUL

COUNCILLOR JEFF PURDY

COUNCILLOR DARLENE COULTON

REGRETS: CHARMAINE STEVENS

OPENING PRAYER: DEBRA WENTZELL

April 8 and 22, 2014, minutes reviewed. One minor amendments was to be made to the April 22nd minutes. Motion by Councillor Tom Pictou to accept the April 8th minutes was seconded by Councillor Mike Paul. All in favour – minutes approved. Motion by Councillor Debra Wentzell to accept the April 22nd minutes was seconded by Councillor Jeff Purdy. All in favour – minutes approved.

Request for leave for band manager was reviewed. Leave was approved without pay as per AFN policy.

A review and discussion was held regarding the vacant house on Gardners Mills. The 13 interviews were narrowed to four applicants based on family size, transportation, band member demographics and interview information. Decision made by vote of the council. Councillor Tom Pictou removed himself from the meeting prior to the discussions and did not participate in the vote due to conflict of interest concerns.

Lisa Francis, Economic Development Officer, made a presentation regarding economic development planning and projects for the 2014/2015 fiscal year for input and decision on priorities and AFN commitment to equity contributions as appropriate. The plan for the Gold River Center was discussed in detail. Plans need to downsized too reduce costs before any final decisions can be made.

A discussion was held regarding the Powwow in Gold River. Last year's powwow cost \$42,300 to host. Costs have to be reduced to hold a powwow in 2014. The previous Powwow was well attended. A request will be made of volunteers of members from each community and council as appropriate to plan and schedule the 2014 Powwow with a reduced cost. The Powwow needs to be more traditional. The community day event has been cancelled.

The Food, Social and Ceremonial (FSC) lobster fishery will be conducted immediately following the closure of the current lobster fishery. The AFN will have a boat staffed with members for the 2-3 weeks required to catch the quota. 350 tags will be used. For band members who receive individual tags they will not be eligible for distribution from the AFN band FSC catch.

A discussion was held regarding the commercial dip stands for gaspereau. There needs to be a license attached to each stand. Chief will send a letter to DFO seeking three licenses within the agreement. This will avoid future conflict and potential charges and legal costs.

A discussion was held regarding community maintenance and elder lawn mowing for the Yarmouth reserve. Several members had made requests to perform this continuing function. The Yarmouth councilors are to review the situation and provide a recommendation at the May 27th Chief and Council meeting for a decision.

A band member request for reimbursement for of medical expenses was not approved. The band member is to be informed by Health staff to submit to Health Canada for further consideration.

A review was done of travel for council. The levels and process from the previous fiscal year will be maintained for this current fiscal year.

Julian O'Connell provided a detailed presentation regarding inventory and business operations at the AFN business locations. New coffee has been introduced and is to be rolled out to all stores as appropriate. New cash register and inventory systems to be installed this year to bring these old systems up to date. A review of phone billing was completed and a 40% reduction in costs was negotiated with Bell Aliant and phone lines will be reviewed to determine if needed. The AFN has fibre optic ability and work is underway with Membertou to implement the conversion to fibre optics thereby improving AFN communications systems.

The registry of Joint Stock and Bonds documents were signed to change the board composition of the various businesses given the dissolution of the Gaming Commission.

The bingo hall project is now completed. The budget was \$1,067,000 and the final project costs were \$1,069,000.

A band member request for educational financial assistance was approved.

A review was done of requests for financial assistance for a variety of training/employment requests. The requests were approved/not approved as per the program policy and funding availability.

The elders trip to Quebec was approved for the Lunenburg and Queens county. Yarmouth is to consider their participation in this event.

A band member request for a shed was added to the shed waiting list.

A band member request for porch repairs was referred to Jim for review and decision.

A letter of resignation from a staff member was reviewed and accepted.

The Recreation Coordinator is to meet with all the REC Funds within the AFN and develop a plan and budgets for each community for council review.

There was damage done at the Youth Center. Rena and Band Manager to review and develop a discipline policy as may be required.

The criteria for Special Needs Education was discussed to determine the MK policy and its application to the AFN.

A band member request for an inspection of their water system was referred to Jim for follow up.

The Band Manager is to review travel for each program and determine if company vehicles will provide a savings within the AFN.

The Governor General is to visit the Gold River after school program. Chief and Council and various staff and family were invited to attend.

Two band members were added to the housing list. A request for windows was referred to Jim for follow up.

A band member request for firewood was referred to the forestry program for action.

A request for information regarding the cost of the Gaming Commission for 2013/2014 was discussed. A breakdown of the costs is to be posted in the newsletter and on the website for band member information.

Interviews are being held for staffing on the 28th for various AFN businesses.

The band manager will request a proposal from the Education program for tutoring funds for AFN students needing tutoring services. This proposal is to be submitted to the MK Education program for funding consideration.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: Halifax

May 27, 2014