

ACADIA FIRST NATION
CHIEF AND COUNCIL MEETING
AFN ENTERTAINMENT CENTER

MAY 27, 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: COUNCILLOR CHARMAINE STEVENS

OPENING PRAYER: DEBRA WENTZELL

May 13, 2014 minutes reviewed. One minor amendments was to be made to the minutes regarding the housing allocation. Motion by Councillor Andrew Francis to accept the May 13th minutes was seconded by Councillor Mike Paul. All in favour – minutes approved.

Fred Wein provided the Chief and Council with a presentation on the current social assistance data collection project. The Atlantic First Nations have been involved in a process of collecting social assistance program data to defend the current legal case with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada and to provide feedback on the appropriate social assistance regime for First Nations given our uniqueness. The research is expected to take 2 ½ years. The Council reaffirmed commitments to support the ongoing research project given its importance in defending the current court action with the federal government and to obtain information on an appropriate social assistance regime which incorporates First Nation input and uniqueness.

The Union of Nova Scotia Indians (UNSI) provided the Council with a presentation on the current Early Childhood Development, Education and Employment survey currently underway. The research is being undertaken to provide improved programming in the areas of early childhood development, education and employment. First Nation communities are being asked to participate and provide information on on-reserve community demographics. The Council supported the research with the appropriate privacy considerations being adhered to with respect to community information. A Band Council Resolution is

to be drafted by AFN legal counsel for review at the next meeting. Additionally, a privacy of information policy is to be developed for Council review and consideration. There is an opportunity to hire a community data collection person for this project by UNSI from within the AFN.

A discussion was held on AFN banking. Currently not all REC funds are managed through the Bank of Montreal (BMO) which is AFN's primary bank. Jeff Purdy made a motion seconded by Tom Pictou that all REC fund accounts be with BMO for accountability, transparency and consistency of services. All Council was in favour and motion passed.

A review was undertaken of the current employee pay system. After discussion it was decided that the option of bi-weekly pays for all staff would be undertaken effective September 1, 2014.

The issue of elder lawn mowing and community maintenance was discussed. The band manager is to prepare a request for tenders for this activity and post it to receive bids and then decide the most cost-effective service.

The current policy of support for persons on-reserve needing medical/home care assistance was discussed. The current policy of 21 hours of service per week was reaffirmed.

Band Office lawn mowing responsibilities was discussed and a decision was made. The band manager is to relay to decision to the staff involved.

The AFN has been asked to participate in the Multicultural Festival held here in Yarmouth. A budget had been submitted by the committee for Council review. The budget was reduced to \$2,500 and the committee was to do fundraising to address any further needs.

POWWOW committee to be established from names submitted. The Band Manager is to be part of the committee.

A discussion surrounding the ongoing negotiations with suppliers for the AFN was held. Negotiations are to continue in an effort to increase revenue and decrease costs and administration.

The AFN will submit a request to CMHC for 8 additional housing units.

There was a complaint about dogs running at large on the AFN reserves. The band manager is to do a letter to the owner to outline the requirement to have dogs secured and not a nuisance to the community members and property.

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.

An issue of band residency was raised again for Gold River. The Band Manager is to seek legal advice and advise Council.

A band member request for a wood stove was discussed. The wood stove was not approved but accommodations would be made for a wood stove should the member wish to proceed with the concept.

Dan Walsh is to be invited to the next Chief and Council meeting.

A request for addressing a bedroom ceiling issue in a home was discussed. Jim is to address the matter at the earliest opportunity.

Shed requests were reviewed and a list established for review at the next council meeting.

An extension that had been previously approved is to be addressed by Jim.

The trees around Winners Corner are to be removed. Arrangements have been made with a band member to do this task.

The AFN has an oil furnace that has been unused. Jim to determine if needed in an AFN unit and if not then list it for sale.

The current mobile trailer on the Yarmouth reserve is to be moved to the vacant lot in the trailer park area.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: Halifax

June 10, 2014